

Israeli forces, Hizbollah clash

NABATIYEH (R) — Israeli jets and artillery blasted Hizbollah targets in South Lebanon on Saturday after one Israeli officer was wounded in clashes with the Muslim guerrillas there, security sources said. They said the jets fired several rockets in four attacks into Mitha hill and Jabal Safi in Iqlim Al Toufah ridge which is used by Hizbollah fighters to attack Israeli troops occupying a South Lebanon border zone. In Israel, the army said an officer was wounded in an attack by Hizbollah guerrillas and confirmed the air raids, saying the pilots reported accurate hits. It was not immediately known if there were any casualties in the air raids and concurrent artillery bombardment of Iqlim Al Toufah which followed the attacks against two Israeli outposts at Sojoud and Beir Kallab and forces stationed nearby.

Volume 21 Number 6332

AMMAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1996, JUMADA I, 9, 1417

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Cabinet entrusts national committee with handling issues related to women Princess Basma to chair high-powered panel of officials to define policies

AMMAN (Petra) — The government on Saturday entrusted the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW) with the responsibility of various matters concerning women's affairs in Jordan and gave it sweeping powers.

A statement following a regular Cabinet session said that the JNCW had been empowered to draw up general policies connected with women in all fields and to define the priorities, chart plans and programmes for women in the governmental and non-governmental sectors and to follow and work towards the modernisation and development of the implementation of the national strategy on women.

The Council of Ministers' statement listed the public figures who have been appointed as members of the JNCW which is chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The statement has defined the committee's responsibilities as follows:

1. Define general policies related to women in all areas and identify priorities, plans and programmes in both government and non-governmental sectors.

2. Follow up the implementation, revise and advance the national strategy for women.

3. Study existing legisla-



tion and any draft laws and other by-laws related to women to ensure that they do not discriminate against women, in coordination with the relevant concerned parties.

4. Propose laws and by-laws in all areas that advance women and are not discriminatory.

5. Strengthen contacts and exchange information and expertise, as well as carry out activities related to women's issues and the improvement of women's status at national, Arab, and international levels.

6. Participate in formulating plans and strategies aimed at fostering development and the advancement of women in all related sectors.

7. Participate in committees, official and consultative bodies formed by the government dealing directly or indirectly with women-related issues.

8. Follow up the implementation of laws and by-

laws to ensure that they are implemented and do not discriminate against women, as well as to follow up the implementation of policies and activities related to women adopted by national plans and programmes.

9. Form a network between Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW), and Ministries and public institutions in order to carry out the objectives of JNCW.

10. Form a committee of women's non-governmental organisations (NGOs), known as the Coordinating Committee of Women's Non-Governmental Organisations, whose role, objectives, and methods of work will be drawn up by regulations issued by JNCW.

B. JNCW shall be considered the authority on women's issues and activities by all the public sector and in this regard, should be consulted by all official parties before any related actions or decisions are taken.

C. JNCW shall be delegated to represent the Kingdom in bodies, conferences, and meetings related to women's affairs at national, Arab and international levels.

D. JNCW shall present its reports and recommendations for appropriate actions to be taken to the prime minister.

JNCW is headed by Princess Basma and includes several ministers,

secretary generals, heads of public and private institutions, and other experienced persons in the area of women's affairs, as follows:

1. The minister of planning

2. The minister of justice

3. The minister of social development

4. Mr. Abdul Karim Dughni, (head of the Legal Committee of JNCW)

5. The secretary general of the Ministry of Labour

6. The secretary general of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, and the Environment

7. The secretary general of the Ministry of Interior

8. The head of the General Federation of Jordanian Women

9. Mrs. Miyassar Al Sa'adi, (Jordanian Women's Union)

10. Mrs. May Abu Al Samn (Jordanian National Forum for Women)

11. Mrs. Fatinah Al Kabarti (representative of the private sector)

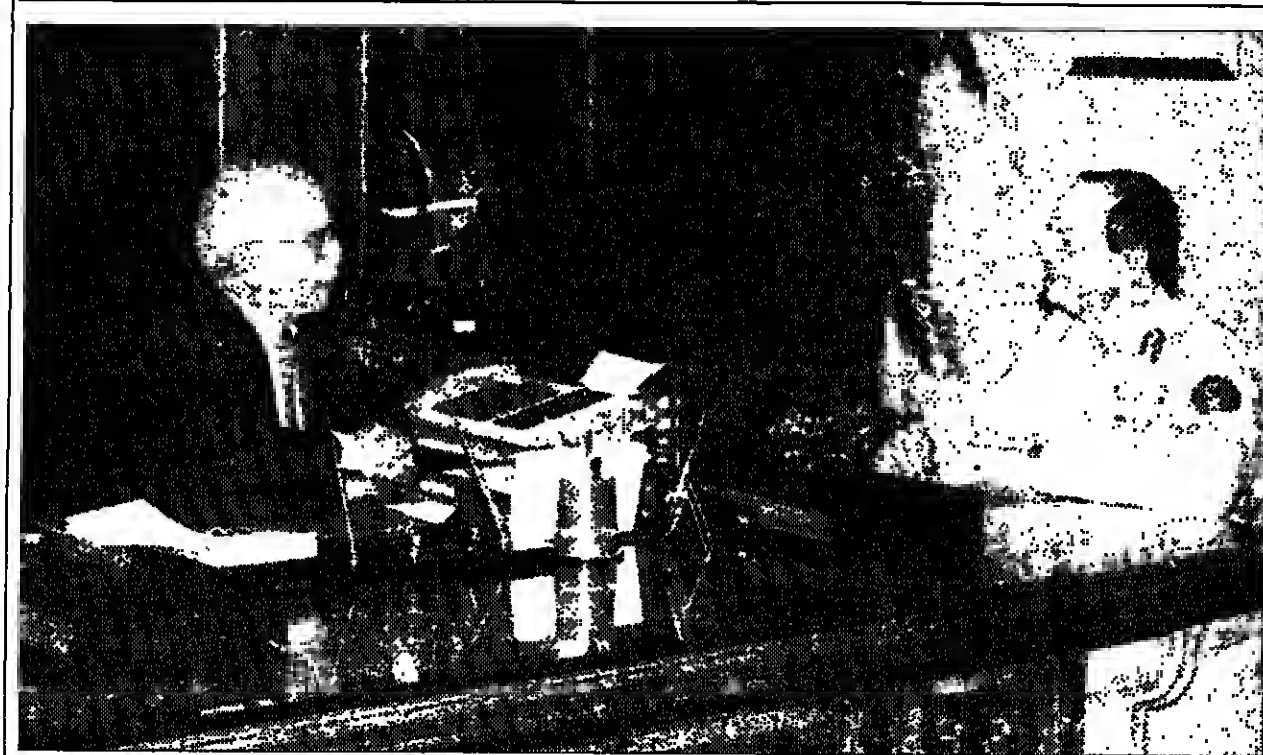
12. Dr. Ibrahim Badran (Noor Al Hussein Foundation)

13. Mrs. Shadia Nusseir (Queen Alia Fund for Social Development)

14. Dr. Amal Farban (Academic sector)

15. Ms. Nawal Al Fa'ouri (NGO sector)

16. Ms. Hiam Kalimat (director of the General Secretariat of JNCW).



KING VISITS GHQ: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, on Saturday visits the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces where he met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai and high-ranking officers. The King and Field Marshal Mirai discussed a number of issues of concern to the Armed Forces. The King was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, director of the National Security Council (Armed Force photo)

U.S. continues buildup in Kuwait; Clinton says no plan to oust Saddam

Combined agency dispatches

ANOTHER 300 U.S. soldiers arrived in Kuwait and warplanes from a second U.S. aircraft carrier began patrols over Iraq on Saturday in a show of force against Washington's Gulf war foe.

The 1st Cavalry Division troops from Fort Hood, Texas, were hused to an arsenal near Kuwait City to draw weapons and deploy quickly near the Iraqi border, U.S. officials said.

A second U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise, began sending warplanes from the Gulf at about 1030 GMT to patrol a Western-imposed no-fly zone in southern Iraq.

"Our mission is to help deter aggression and help contribute to the peace in the Middle East," said the commander of the Enterprise, Captain Michael D. Malone.

The Enterprise, with 74 aircraft — including F-14 fighters recently modified to deliver laser-guided bombs — entered the Gulf on Thursday. It joined another carrier battle group plus U.S. ground and air forces deployed mainly in Kuwait against Iraq.

The Enterprise left the Adriatic Sea last weekend to join the Carrier Carl Vinson, which is taking part in flights as part of "Operation Southern Watch" over southern Iraq.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said Friday his country was not trying to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, but America will enforce the no-fly zones over Iraq.

The United States is "not trying to get rid of" President Saddam, Mr. Clinton told ABC Television in a taped interview.

Several leading U.S. papers have carried reports this month indicating the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had been running an operation out of northern Iraq to topple President Saddam.

The Iraqi incursion into the northern city of Erbil thwarted that effort, according to the papers, and some 100 anti-Saddam operatives were said to have been rounded up and executed.

The United States unilaterally extended the southern no-fly zone in Iraq from the 32nd Parallel to the 33rd Parallel on the second day of U.S. missile strikes earlier this month, which punished Iraq for its offensive into the protected Kurdish zone in northern Iraq.

Irak had vowed to defy the

allied-parolled no-fly zone, but the United Nations said Friday Baghdad was respecting the zone limits.

While U.S. troops prepared for manoeuvres in the desert about 25 kilometres from the Iraqi border, in the marshes of southern Iraq, Baghdad's military has launched a "massive" attack on the Shiite Muslim population, according to the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), an Iraqi opposition group based in Iran.

Iraq lies to the north and west of Kuwait.

Earlier in the week, the opposition coalition Iraqi National Congress said about 3,000 elite Iraqi Republican Guard troops were shifted from Baghdad to within 15 kilometres of the border with Kuwait.

Washington had previously confirmed that there had been troop movements in southern Iraq.

Although tension in the region has subsided over the past week, U.S. officers said the troops' mission in Kuwait is to train and show Iraq that the United States has enough firepower in the region to deal with any threats.

The troops arrived with full military gear that includes chemical and biological weapons detectors, protective suits and masks because Washington says Baghdad may still have chemical and biological weapons.

Across the border, Iraq has some 60,000 troops south of the 32nd Parallel.

Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission in charge of assuring Baghdad's compliance with disarmament resolutions, said his staff had proof that Iraq was respecting the expanded, allied-imposed "no-fly" zone over the south.

Mr. Ekeus told AFP that Thursday and Friday, Iraqi helicopters accompanying U.N. missions had stopped short of the extended zone, while the U.N. aircraft continued on.

Russian ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy on Saturday denounced Washington's policy toward Iraq, comparing President Clinton to Hitler as his supporters set fire to a U.S. flag.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy delivered a virulent anti-American attack to around 150 supporters who had gathered outside the U.S. embassy in Moscow. He addressed the crowd from a World War II armoured car.

Turkey asks Baghdad to seize control of north

NEW YORK (Agencies)

— Fearful of a power vacuum on its borders, Turkey's foreign minister has urged Saddam Hussein to assert control over northern Iraq, the New York Times reported Saturday.

"We have sent a delegation to Saddam to tell him that if he can impose central authority there, OK," Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller told the Times.

It was unclear what sort of action she was advocating. Turkish Kurdish rebels are fighting for autonomy within Turkey and have used northern Iraq as a staging area for hit-and-run attacks against Turkish targets.

Mrs. Ciller said in the Friday interview that Turkey would continue to allow U.S. jets to take off from Turkish bases to patrol "no-fly" zones over Iraq.

But her comments raise questions about how Turkey, if it is collaborating with Iraq, can simultaneously assist the U.S. efforts against the Iraqi leader.

A senior U.S. State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Times that Mrs. Ciller's remarks do not reflect what Turkey said to U.S. officials earlier.

On Aug. 31, Baghdad sent troops to help a Kurdish faction oust a rival Iran-backed Kurdish group in northern Iraq. The Americans responded by firing cruise missiles on military targets in southern Iraq.

Mrs. Ciller told the paper that the lack of authority in northern Iraq has been "tragic" for Turkey, and that it is that state of affairs that had led the country to seek President Saddam's assistance.

"We are still talking to him, and we are interested to see what he can do or is prepared to do," she said.

"If he can establish a degree of rule there that puts an end to terrorist infiltration, that would be fine with us. If not, we will take measures to see that terrorists do not continue to operate on our borders," Mrs. Ciller said.

"We defend the territorial integrity of Iraq, but the lack of authority there has been tragic for us," she

added.

The Turks, who have been battling with the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), the main Turkish Kurdish separatist group fighting central power in Ankara, have sought to crush the PKK and halt the attacks it has waged against Turkey.

"We have the problem that a terrorist group, the PKK, is operating from camps in northern Iraq," Mrs. Ciller said. "An average of three Turkish soldiers are being killed every day by these terrorists."

That is something we cannot tolerate, and to stop this infiltration, we proposed establishing a security zone in the border area," she added.

After the latest Iraqi military movement, Turkey said it would establish a security zone on the border with Iraq on — Baghdad's side — to ward off any Kurdish incursions.

Mrs. Ciller said Ankara would drop that plan if the Iraqi army or some other force could chase the guerrillas out of northern Iraq.

Mrs. Ciller did not specifically say whether Turkey wants President Saddam to send his own troops into northern Iraq to crush the Kurds fighting the separatist war from there, the paper reported.

Senior administration officials said Mrs. Ciller's comments did not agree with what Turkey, Washington's ally in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, has told the United States in recent meetings.

"I have to say I'm a little surprised by those statements," one unnamed senior State Department official told the paper.

"This does not accord with the discussions the United States has had with Turkey."

"Perhaps it is Turkey's way of signaling to the United States that it has alternatives," the source added.

The source told the paper that if it is true Turkey is inviting President Saddam to take control over northern Iraq "it would not be a welcome development — it would obviously make our cooperation with the Turks more difficult."

Emoush says professor held

AMMAN (J.T.) — The head of the Public Freedoms Committee at the Lower House of Parliament, Bassam Emoush, on Saturday demanded the immediate release of a professor at the University of Jordan, who Dr. Emoush said, had been arrested on unspecified charges. Dr. Emoush's call came in an urgent message addressed to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, a copy of which was sent to the Jordan Times. The message identified the purportedly arrested professor as Ibrahim Abu Aarkoub. No official comment was immediately available.

U.S. wants to start choosing new U.N. chief soon

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States called Friday for a timetable starting next month for an orderly U.N. procedure to find a successor to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, whose reappointment Washington plans to block. U.S. officials said that although President (Bill) Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher would not raise the matter formally when they visit the U.N. General Assembly next week, they expected it to figure in backstage discussions. Dr. Ghali's first five-year term expires at the end of this year. The 73-year-old Egyptian is eligible to stand again but Washington says he has not given enough attention to restructuring the world body, and that it will not back him.

Mubarak accuses Netanyahu to breaking promise to honour deals

BONN (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of not keeping a promise to honour Middle East peace deals and warned of a new Palestinian uprising far worse than the last intifada.

Mr. Mubarak told the German news magazine Der Spiegel Mr. Netanyahu had promised him personally he would stick to agreements between Israel and the Palestinians signed by the governments of his predecessors Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

"But he is not keeping his promise," Mr. Mubarak told Spiegel in an interview released ahead of publication on Monday.

"He was hardly back from (visiting me in) Cairo before he was telling the whole world he could not accept the results of negotiations reached with the Palestinians and approved by his predecessors," Mr. Mubarak said.

He said if Mr. Netanyahu did not honour the peace agreements, a repeat of the intifada — the Palestinian uprising which began in late 1987 against the Israeli occupation — was bound to take place.

"Planting time bombs such as the unfettered construction of Jewish settlements on the West Bank and ignoring treaties will lead to a new intifada sooner or later," he said. "And this time it won't be limited to throwing stones."

Mr. Mubarak pointed to the fact Israel has not redeployed the troops stationed in the West Bank town of Hebron and has now approved plans to build more Jewish housing on the West Bank as flagrant violations of the peace accords.

Mr. Netanyahu, also interviewed by Spiegel, insisted his right-wing government would honour the agreements made by its Labour-led predecessors. "We'll stick to the treaties," he said.

But he added: "The most difficult work is before us — such as the future of Jerusalem, Jewish settlements and the question as to whether there should be a

Palestinian state. Our answers will certainly be different from those of my predecessors."

Mr. Netanyahu, who will visit Bonn as part of a European tour next week, said negotiators would need to come up with a totally new type of political structure for the Palestinians.

"The Palestinian area will not be able to be a state in the classic sense of the word. There will be a series of restrictions on its sovereignty," he said.

"It's inconceivable that a Palestinian leader would preside over an army of tanks, missiles and aircraft. He would not be allowed to form any military alliances with the likes of Iran or Iraq," the Likud Party leader said.

Egypt also said the settlement policy of the Netanyahu government could wreck the Middle East peace process.

"The settlement policy, which the Israeli government is adopting, is very serious," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters.

"It could wreck the peace process on the rock of Israeli rejection and obstinacy," Mr. Musa said before leaving Cairo on his way to New York to head Egypt's delegation at the United Nations General Assembly.

"This policy cannot be described but as rash," he added.

Israel's military administration approved this week plans to build 1,800 new homes to expand a Jewish settlement in the West Bank.

Mr. Musa said that during his stay in New York he will brief several world leaders on the sidelines of the General Assembly on the stalemate that has gripped the peace process since February and efforts to reactivate it.

He accused Israel of "intransigence" and called on the Jewish state to implement its peace commitments.

Egypt: War games not aimed at Israel

25	...Dubai (EK)	Pepper (sweet)	340/200
25	...Cairo (MS)	Plum	620/400
20	...Riyadh (add) (SV)	Pomegranate	380/250
30	...Amsterdam (KL)	Potato	280/160
30	...Belgrade (GU)	String Bean	700/400
30	...Athens (OA)	Sweet melon	380/250
30	...Istanbul (TK)	Tomato	220/120



HRH Crown Prince Hassan Saturday meets members of the Kingdom's junior Taekwondo teams who recently clinched first place in the British Open Taekwondo Championship. Jordan finished first after winning 11 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals in the tournament alongside 500 athletes from England, Scotland and Ireland (photo by Boghos)

King addresses conference in Zimbabwe

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein called for increased international efforts to help attain a durable peace and buttress regional security as well as economic development.

The King, whose address was delivered by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hashem Dabbas, said that international and regional cooperation in energy-related matters is of paramount importance and that he regretted that such a cooperation has not yet been successfully implemented.

Speaking to an international conference on solar energy, held in Zimbabwe, the speech noted that in light of recent global developments the need for energy could become politicized and result in armed conflicts.

Referring to the peace treaties between Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinians, the discourse continued:

"These accords reflect our sincere orientation towards peace and our intention to cooperate in energy and other sectors."

Wishing the conference success in its deliberations, the King stressed, through Mr. Dabbas, the importance of deliberations by the delegates to arrive at policies and strategies binding to all nations and ensuring sustainable energy development which is essential for an integrated development.

Referring to Jordan's endeavours, the address continued, solar power will contribute to the country's economic development in general and to rural regions in particular.

Jordan, he added, holds great potential for increased use of solar energy but the country is in need of local resources through modern technology and on a commercial basis.

Murder not ruled out in death of Shmeisani children — authorities

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A high-ranking police official said that authorities were not ruling out the possibility of murder in the continuing investigation of the death of two children in Shmeisani nearly two weeks ago.

Hani, 9, and Hani, 6, Mazen Masri, died of cyanide poisoning on the morning of Sept. 11, according to officials.

Criminal lab pathologists have ruled out food poisoning, suicide or accidental consumption of the lethal substance.

"We are taking all possibilities into account," the police official Saturday told the Jordan Times.

The two children were left alone in their apartment while their mother gave her husband his daily ride to work at 6:45 a.m. Upon her return home, at 7:15, she found her daughter unconscious

behind the apartment's front door and her son collapsed in his room.

The woman rushed her children to Shmeisani Hospital, thinking they were merely unconscious, but the hospital deemed her son dead on arrival while her daughter died shortly thereafter.

Preliminary police investigations found no traces of any poison at the children's home.

On Thursday, a criminal lab announced the results

of tests conducted on samples taken from the children's intestines, liver and bloodstream which indicated that the deadly substance was cyanide.

Medical sources maintained that cyanide is a substance which is difficult to individually obtain.

Official sources Saturday said that Criminal Court Attorney General Abdul Aziz Rawashdeh will supervise investigations.

Seven people killed in road accidents

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Seven people, including five family members, were killed in two separate road accidents over the weekend, police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports said.

On the Zarqa highway, five people were killed Friday when their rental car skidded from the Military College Bridge and landed in a ditch.

Police said that the driver had been speeding and lost control of his vehicle.

The deceased were identified in official reports as:

Yaqoub Othman Shalhoub, 30, Etidal Munir Shalhoub, 53, Manal Farouq Shalhoub, 26, Mahmoud Farouq Shalhoub, 16, and Ahmad Farouq Shalhoub, 4.

Friday's accident was the second one in the last six months to incur high casualties. On May 17, seven workers at the Shideh Phosphate Mine were killed during a severe sandstorm.

The men had parked their vehicle beside the road in expectation of improved visibility when an oncoming truck struck the car from behind causing the vehicle to explode.

Also Friday, in the Biader area of Amman, two people were killed in a road collision, official reports said.

The report said that the driver of the vehicle, identified as M.Y., 72, collided with an oncoming vehicle. He and his 60-year-old wife, identified only as K.Y., were killed instantly.

Traffic officials blamed the driver for violating traffic regulations and speeding.

Recent statistics released by the traffic department indicated that 469 people were killed last year in 28,970 accidents which resulted in 13,184 injuries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Planning delegation to depart for U.S.A.

AMMAN (Petra) — An official delegation, headed by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf, is Sunday expected to depart for Washington. The committee will hold talks with the World Bank concerning a projected \$120 million loan. The delegation will also attend a seminar on Middle Eastern and North African infrastructures and the possibilities of private sector participation for funding. They will participate in the annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund at the beginning of next month.

Kingdom elected to IPU committee

BEIJING (Petra) — A committee of twelve delegations to the 96th conference of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), currently convening in Beijing, selected Jordan as an executive committee member with 104 out of a possible 168 votes. This is considered an achievement for Jordan as the committee is one of the most important bodies of the IPU. The vote evidences Jordan's special status in the IPU according to Deputy Toujan Faisal, who thanked the general assembly for their confidence and stressed her eagerness to contribute to this distinguished committee's work.

JCFC concludes \$15 million loan agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) Saturday took another step towards reducing pollution emanating from factory chimneys.

The Fuheis-based company announced that it had concluded a \$15 million loan agreement in conjunction with a consortium of seven national banks which will help finance the project and purchase necessary equipment for its implementation.

Built over 40 years ago, the cement factory has undergone several upgrades and, according to management sources, a total of JD 24 million will be spent to improve production lines and solve the pollution problem.

Residents of Fuheis and its neighbouring town of Mahes staged a sit-in last June to press their demands for a solution to the problems the cement factory was allegedly causing them.

According to a statement released Saturday the company concluded the loan agreement with the following banks: the Arab Bank, the Housing Bank, the British Bank of the Middle East, the Jordan Finance and

Investment Bank, the Jordan National Bank, the Cairo Amman Bank and the Exports and Finance Bank.

The loan is to be managed by the Arab Bank, the largest commercial bank in the Kingdom.

JCFC Board Chairman Dr. Bassam Sakei signed the agreement, thanked the consortium for its cooperation and said that the deal reflects the credibility his company enjoys with local banks, which, he said, are keen on helping the company's factory continue its development projects as well as its contributions to the economy.

Board Chairman of the Arab Bank Khaled Shoman, who signed for the consortium, paid tribute to the JCFC as being a successful company.

The JCFC commenced operations in 1954. Presented in US dollars, the loan reflects the domestic currency's stability in that it has sufficient foreign exchange reserves, he said. Also signing the loan agreement were the chairmen of the boards of the various banks involved and the vice-president of the Central Bank of Jordan.

Chamber of Industry to attend seminar in Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry announced Saturday that it will take part in a seminar on the economic role of women.

The conference has been organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to be held in Tunis between Sept. 23 and 26.

Chamber Representative Sahar Huneidi will present a report dealing with women's contributions to the national economy and industry, the rights of working women in Jordan as outlined under the Jordanian Labour Law, and salaries received in the private and public sectors,

according to the announcement.

The statement further described the seminar as focusing attention on women's status in professional fields, international agreements regarding women, working women in public and private sectors of the Arab World and efforts to promote Arab women in the economic sector.

Also Saturday, the Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan stated that the first half of 1996 witnessed a notable increase in industrial activities in the Kingdom, especially in the garment, textiles, chemical,

pharmaceutical, cement, petrochemical, metal, paper and cardboard, paint and batteries industries.

According to Mr. Abu Hassan, Jordan's exports of industrial products in the first five months of 1996 amounted to JD 365 million as compared to JD 337 million for the same period last year.

He said that the number of exporters of at least JD 10,000 worth of industrial products rose from 717 in 1994 to 805 in the first half of 1996.

According to Mr. Abu Hassan the Jordanian industrial sector currently employs 150,000 workers.

Citibank lauds Jordan's high economic growth

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Khatib Saturday reaffirmed the Kingdom's determination to maintain open economic policies and pursue the privatization of heretofore public organizations in a bid to attract further investments from Arab and other nations.

Mr. Khatib was speaking during a meeting in his office with Vice President of Citibank Paul Collins.

The two reviewed economic developments in the light of ongoing implementation of the economic restructuring programme as agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Following the meeting Mr. Collins told reporters that his talks with Mr. Khatib covered numerous issues and particularly the bank's local activities stressing Citibank's commitment to expand its operations in the Kingdom.

Jordan's economic development is going in the right direction as evidenced by its low inflation rates and constant expansion of economic growth, Mr. Collins confirmed. He said that Citibank will continue to provide Jordan with economic assistance including professional counselling for local organisations undergoing the process of privatisation as well as continual encouragement aimed at foreign investors to initiate joint ventures with local businesses in the Kingdom.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CHINESE FILM WEEK

* Two Chinese films entitled "Confucius" and "The Maker of Sesame Oil" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Plastic art by Iraqi artist Widad Ayal at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Sept. 26.
- * Works by Mohammad Al Jaloo at Baladna Art Gallery, entitled "Pathetic" Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Oct. 30.
- * Works by Shereen Odeh at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 623297), until Oct. 1.
- * Basketry exhibition (with a variety of wrought iron furniture mixed with basketry) at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, Shmeisani (Tel. 699141/2), until Oct. 10.
- * "Water colours works by Salam Kanaan and Pia Hayes at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 639303), until Sept. 26.
- * "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (including ceramic sculptures by Vera Tamari, photographs of Jordanian villages by Ammar Khamash, works by contemporary Arab artists, a mosaic exhibition, and others), until Oct. 8.
- * Works by artists from France, Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, and Egypt entitled "Tapis Volants" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 24.

Furnished Apartment For Rent

New apartment at new building in Jabal Luweibdeh for rent has 2 bedrooms, sitting room, 2 bathrooms, new kitchen, balcony, telephone, C.H., entrance, has new furniture.

For more details please call tel: 626682, 792246 for 3 days.

Tourism sector on upward trend, says Irsheidat

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With more than 780,000 tourists visiting the Kingdom in the first eight months of this year, Jordan's tourism industry is undergoing substantial and constant growth. Minister of Tourism Saleh Irsheidat declared Saturday.

Stressing that the tourism sector has largely benefited from the signing of the peace treaty with Israel, the minister told the Jordan Times that not only "1995 marked a great moment for Jordan's tourism," but also an optimistic forecast can be formulated for the rest of 1996, as an increase of 6.5 per cent in the total number of visitors from abroad has so far been registered.

According to Dr. Irsheidat, these achievements are even more encouraging should one consider that "Jordan is new in the tourism international market."

He said there has been a considerable increase in the number of tourists from the Gulf and other Arab countries, while Israelis accounted for 10 per cent of the total of tourists who visited Jordan in 1995.

Dr. Irsheidat released these figures yesterday, during the opening ceremony of the first edition of "Travel Market," an exhibition organized by Al Madina Information, a private local firm, with the support of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

The ministries of tourism and tourist boards of Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, India and Malaysia, along with the Jordan Tourism Board, as well as representatives of more than 15 different airlines and tour and travel agencies are taking part in the exhibition, to be held until Sept. 24 at the Hotel Philadelphia.

"Though in this first edition the participation of governmental bodies is limited to only five foreign countries, nonetheless we will develop in the future," Dr. Irsheidat commented.

The development of infrastructures and the increase of tourism facilities, to be achieved through close cooperation between the private and public sectors, are the keys to tourism growth, Dr. Irsheidat pointed out.

"The fact that over 30 new hotels, for a total of 4,500 rooms, are under construction at the

moment shows that the private sector is very much involved in the tourism sector growth," he said.

Murad Kasht, sales representative at Petra Tours, one of the oldest travel and tour agencies in the Kingdom, highlighted the increase in profits following the signing of peace with Israel.

He said Petra's sister company Alpha has made available in the past year an average of two buses a day for tourists coming from Israel and added that tourism growth has focused especially on the Dead Sea and Petra areas.

Satisfaction over the upward trend of the country's tourism industry was also expressed by President of the Jordan Society of Tourist and Travel Agents (JSTTA) Yasin Kayed.

"The JSTTA counts 338 members and, though this might seem a big number for a small country like Jordan, there is business for all of them," Mr. Kayed told the Jordan Times.

High quality service and flexibility in meeting the different types of demand coming from abroad are the solutions to stiff competition.

"Tourism is a profitable



Minister of Tourism Saleh Irsheidat Saturday greets travel agents from Petra Travel and Tourism Company at the opening of the Travel Market 1996 at the Hotel Philadelphia (photo by Francesca Ciriaci)

market," Mr. Kayed summed up.

Even the mid-August disorders in Karak and the consequent negative publicity for the country did not affect tourism's positive trend.

"Though the tourism sector is very sensitive to internal or regional political events, cancellations were minimum and much less than we expected," Mr. Kayed told the Jordan Times.

The overall growth of the tourism sector also seems to have faded away past uneasinesses between the government and the JSTTA.

Last summer's quarrel between the Ministry of Tourism and travel agents over the government's attempt to apply new regulations by which tourist agencies would be required to deposit an annual JD25,000 bank guarantee to the Ministry of Tourism was defined

yesterday by Mr. Kayed as a "misunderstanding."

"Last month we reached a fair agreement, under which the annual bank guarantee to be provided by each tour and travel agent to the Ministry of Tourism has been lowered to JD15,000, (from the initially envisaged JD 25,000)," Mr. Kayed said.

"Any operator who can not afford to provide such a guarantee could not possibly stay in the business," he concluded.

S. Korea soldier killed as Northern agents strike

KANGNUNG, South Korea (R) — A South Korean paratrooper was shot in the head and killed during a helicopter chase for North Korean agents across rugged mountains Saturday, the Defence Ministry said.

But in a sign that Seoul wants to limit damage from one of the deadliest infiltrations from the North since the early cold war, Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung said he still wanted peace talks with Pyongyang.

Media reports said the 26-year-old sergeant was hit while being winched to the ground to pursue two Communist fugitives. Another paratrooper on the helicopter was also wounded as the infiltrators opened fire with automatic weapons.

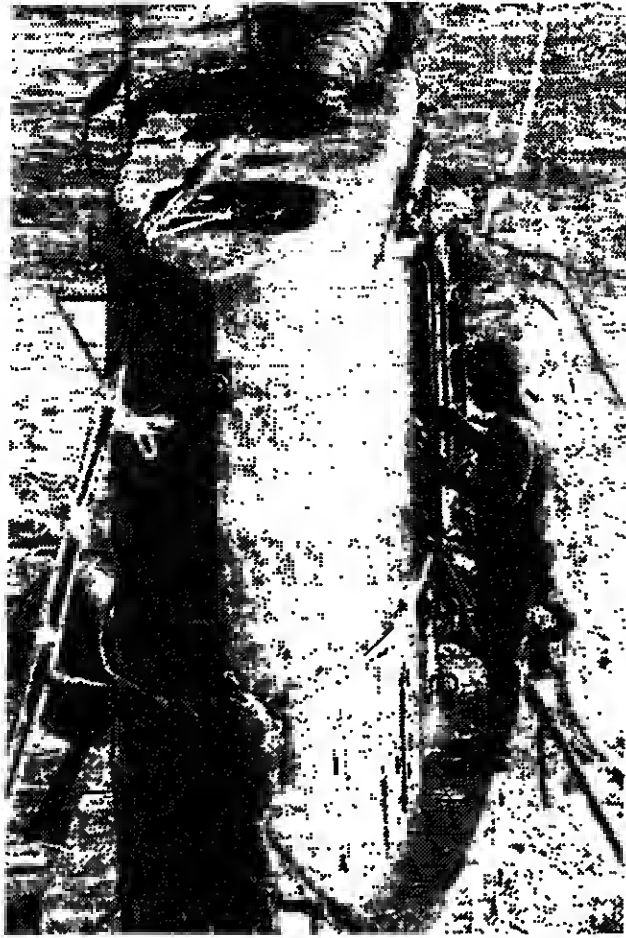
It was the first reported Southern fatality in a four-day hunt along east coast mountains for an estimated 26 infiltrators who landed Wednesday morning by submarine on a beach from the North.

South Korean forces have killed seven of the agents and captured one alive, while the bodies of 11 others were found, possibly shot by saboteurs among the squad who wanted to increase their survival chances.

Foreign Minister Gong told reporters that despite the incident, "there will be no change in the government's original position pressing for four-way talks to obtain peace on the Korean peninsula."

In April, U.S. President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam proposed four-way talks, also including China, to replace an armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War with a peace treaty.

But Mr. Gong said he believed the drama would affect the flow of international



A member from the South Korean army demolition team prepares to tow a North Korean submarine in Kangnung city Saturday, which was believed to carry about 26 North Korean infiltrators. So far 18 infiltrators have been shot and killed and one has been captured alive (Reuters photo)

food aid to North Korea, which is on the brink of famine following disastrous floods.

Several skirmishes broke out Saturday as a deadly game of cat-and-mouse was played out in wooded ravines.

Loudspeakers on army jeeps boomed out a recorded message from the captured agent, Lee Kwang-Soo, pleading with his colleagues to give themselves up.

"I am alive and safe,"

according to the message, which echoed around canyons. "Our mission has already been finished. I want you to surrender and find a new life along with me in the Republic of Korea."

Piecing together the account of the captured agent, Defence Ministry officials say two of three highly trained saboteurs were still alive and at large. Also missing were the captain of the vessel, two guides and three crew members.

"Our forces are still chas-

ing the two men believed to be saboteurs and squeezing the dragnet," a Defence Ministry official in Kangnung said. "We are also hunting another group of three suspected North Korean agents on a nearby hillside after a report from witnesses."

Defence Minister Lee Yang-Ho called the submarine infiltration a military provocation. "The infiltrators seem to have been entrusted with an important mission. We continue to investigate what it was," he told reporters.

The submarine ended up stranded on rocks, indicating that whatever the mission it had been badly botched. Salvage vessels Saturday prepared to tow away the vessel.

Television pictures have been playing North Korean propaganda film of spy agents displaying awesome combat skills as frogmen, paratroopers and martial art fighters.

The old movie reels show muscular men being beaten with boards studded with nails and female operatives slicing bottles in half with flashing open-band chopps.

Terrified residents around Kangnung bolted their doors at night, and tourist hotels in the region have emptied ahead of the Korean thanksgiving, an important national holiday.

Nearby Sorak Mountain is one of the country's best-known resort areas, frequented by millions of South Korean climbers, skiers and other tourists throughout the year.

"We spend every day helpless," said Chon Song-Hee, a female resident at a town on the outskirts of Kangnung. "I feel like I live in the dark. I don't go out even during the daytime."



South Korean soldiers prepare to get off from a helicopter after an operation to search for the remaining North Korean infiltrators in Kangnung city Saturday. Seoul authorities believe up to seven agents may be holed up in the Kangnung area close to a beach where the submarine was spotted earlier grounded on a reef (Reuters photo)

Destroyed TWA jet previously used in bomb tests — FBI

NEW YORK (R) — The TWA jet that erupted in flames in July over the Atlantic was used for a bomb training operation that could have left traces of explosives found by investigators, officials said Friday.

Packages containing explosive chemicals were put on board the Boeing 747 in the past year as part of a training exercise for bomb-sniffing dogs, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said in a statement.

The test packages were removed from the Boeing 747 when the training exercise ended, sometime in the past year, the FBI said.

Those explosives would not have caused an explosion to destroy the plane, said Shelly Hazle, a spokeswoman for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which is leading the investigation. "They only used bomb-making materials," she said. "They weren't planting bombs and didn't leave one on board."

The Paris-bound TWA Flight 800 exploded without warning in midair on July 17 off the coast of Long Island, New York, killing all 230 people on board.

Investigators seeking the cause of the deadly crash have found microscopic chemical traces of two types of explosives in the wreckage but have said they lack sufficient evidence to declare that a bomb destroyed the plane.

They have been puzzled by the lack of physical evidence of a bomb, such as distinctive scarring or so-called pinging, on

the wreckage.

"This could discount the traces that were found," the NTSB spokeswoman said.

The FBI did not say what types of explosives were used in the dog-sniffing tests or precisely when they were carried out. Investigators have said privately that the chemical traces they found in the wreckage were of PETN and RDX, both prime ingredients in the plastic explosive Semtex.

Investigators maintain there are three possible explanations for the crash — a bomb, a missile or a mechanical failure — but this latest revelation could diminish the possibility that it was a bomb.

TWA spokesman John McDonald said from the airline's headquarters in St. Louis that the airline could not confirm that the plane was used to test bomb-detection dogs. "We haven't received information that in fact that's what happened," he said.

The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard have been recovering the plane's debris from the floor of the Atlantic Ocean, and investigators have been reassembling the wreckage in an old aircraft banger in Calverton, New York.

Investigators also have travelled to London to look at a mock-up of Pan Am Flight 103, which blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988 killing 259 people aboard and 11 on the ground.

The bodies of 213 of the 230 victims on Flight 800 have been recovered.

Russians restart Chechenya pullout

MOSCOW (R) — Russian troops resumed their withdrawal from Chechenya Saturday under a peace deal signed on Aug. 31, after a break caused by arguments over prisoners of war, Russian news agencies said.

The commander of Russian troops Vyacheslav Tikhomirov opened a meeting dedicated to this event. "Interfax News Agency said. The withdrawal had begun on Sept. 8 but was stopped a day later amid a row over lists of prisoners provided by the Russian military and the rebels they have been fighting since December 1994.

Interfax said the first train with soldiers from the 276th motorized rifle regiment would set off towards the regiment's base in the Urals after the ceremony. Two more would follow on Monday and Tuesday.

Other soldiers not regularly stationed in the military district which includes Chechenya will also withdraw in the first of a two-stage pullout of the Defence Ministry troops in the region, who number about 11,000, it said.

It is due to be complete by December. The fate of Interior Ministry troops still in Chechenya is unclear. The deal involves the withdrawal

of all troops temporarily stationed in the region, but there is a disagreement over what this means.

The withdrawal is a key part of the deal signed by President Boris Yeltsin's Chechenya envoy Alexander Lebed and rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov designed to end 21 months of fighting in the rebel region, where tens of thousands of people have died.

The two men agreed to shelve the issue at the centre of the conflict, the political status of the region, which Moscow insists must remain in the Russian Federation despite rebel calls for independence.

A ceasefire has held, although there are still isolated exchanges of fire. But politicians in Moscow have cast doubt over the future of the deal, arguing that it gives too much away to the rebels.

Meanwhile, the separatist leadership announced Saturday that commander Maskhadov will attend a debate on Chechenya in Strasbourg "if the invitation of the Council of Europe is still open."

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is due to open its autumn session Monday with a debate on the rebel-

lous Russian republic. Both Commander Maskhadov and Gen. Lebed, who jointly signed a ceasefire on Aug. 31 that brought an end to 20 months of war in the tiny Caucasus republic, had been invited to participate in the debate.

The spokesman for the separatist headquarters, Movlady Udogov, said that the composition of the delegation and the itinerary of the Strasbourg trip had not yet been finalised.

He added that the text of Commander Maskhadov's address to the Parliamentary Assembly had been drawn up collectively by the separatist Chechen leadership.

It was still unclear Saturday whether Gen. Lebed would attend the assembly with a Russian delegation.

"General Lebed has accepted verbally to come to Strasbourg to take part in a debate on Chechenya with the separatist leader, General Aslan Maskhadov," an official at the Council of Europe said Friday.

However, Gen. Lebed's attendance has not been officially confirmed, and a source close to the security chief told Interfax Friday that he would not be in Strasbourg.

Kenya arrests Rwandan genocide suspect

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya has arrested an exiled Rwandan Hutu businessman suspected of involvement in Rwanda's 1994 genocide of up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus, state radio and a Rwandan refugee leader said Saturday.

The arrest Friday of Obeid Ruzindana was the first by Kenya, a country considered by Rwanda's new Tutsi-led government as a haven for Hutus who fled their motherland after the genocide.

Innocent Butare, executive secretary of the exiled Rally for the Return of Refugees

and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR), a Hutu lobby group, told Reuters that Mr. Ruzindana was arrested Friday on a warrant signed by the Tanzania-based International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

"He is on the list of people wanted by the International Tribunal. He was arrested yesterday by police accompanied by tribunal officials," Mr. Butare said.

Tribunal deputy spokesman Boaz Sy told Reuters by telephone from Tanzania that he had heard radio reports of Mr. Ruzindana's arrest but could not confirm them officially.

Mr. Butare said Mr. Ruzindana, a former trader in Rwanda's Kibuye region, was charged with genocide and crimes against humanity.

Kenyan state radio reported the arrest, bringing to 11 the number of suspects indicted by the tribunal and in custody in various capitals.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi last year publicly refused to cooperate with the tribunal on the grounds that it was only targeting Hutus. He warned Kenya would arrest tribunal members who came to this country.

Church vents anger against disgraced bishop

LONDON (R) — Britain's Roman Catholic Church Friday vented its anger on a runaway bishop who fathered a love child, saying he had assured church elders that stories about his secret relationship were untrue. Bishop Roderick Wright, who vanished nearly two weeks ago from his Scottish diocese with a divorcee, dealt the church a second bodyblow when his 15-year-old son tearfully admitted to millions of television viewers he was the priest's secret son. "We have been mistreated badly and that is regrettable. I feel as betrayed as anybody in all of this," said Scotland's Cardinal Thomas Winning, who received Bishop Wright's resignation at the weekend. The Vatican accepted it formally Thursday. The fact that Bishop Wright, 55, vanished at the same time as another woman finally prompted the mother of his child to go public about the guilty secret she harboured for 15 years. "I have lived a lie and so has he," 48-year-old Joanne Whitley said in a BBC Television interview Thursday. Card. Winning said Bishop Wright had been confronted three years ago over allegations that he was having a relationship, but gave his superiors "cast-iron guarantees" that he was not guilty. "We received a categorical denial and a guarantee not only was it untrue but it was scurrilous," said Card. Winning.

Jealous woman 'bobbitts' her lover

MANILA (AFP) — In an incident reminiscent of the John Wayne Bobbit case three years ago, a Filipina, cut off her live-in partner's penis in a Manila suburb, local newspapers reported Saturday. The woman, Sally Guerrero, 20, was reportedly jealous after seeing her live-in partner with another woman so she lured him into bed to have sex late Friday and then pulled out a knife and cut off his penis. Doctors were able to reattach the organ, although the man remains under observation, the newspapers said, adding that Ms. Guerrero was being sought by police. The case was widely compared to that of Lorena Bobbitt, who cut off the penis of her then-husband, John Wayne Bobbit, in the United States in 1993.

Traffic is driving tourists away from Bangkok

BANGKOK (AFP) — Bangkok's traffic problems are driving tourists away, resulting in a 50 per cent drop in the length of time visitors stay in the Thai capital, a senior tourism official was quoted as saying Monday. A Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) survey showed tourists were cutting their stays in Bangkok to one to two days before moving on to the country's beaches and temples. TAT Deputy Governor Juthamat Siriwan said in the nation. "The number of tourists visiting Thailand as a whole has not fallen, but they are not staying long in Bangkok," Mr. Juthamat said. "It's a pity because there are a number of places worth visiting," he added. Mr. Juthamat said previous surveys showed tourists staying three to four days. Bangkok's notorious traffic jams mean that cross-city trips during the rush hour can take as long as three hours, making short trips to tourist sites around the capital a daunting prospect. Tourism remains one of Thailand's main industries, bringing in 173.8 billion baht (\$6.9 billion) in revenue last year from 6.9 million visitors. Economic growth in Thailand has also brought a new wave of consumers eager to buy cars, resulting in an estimated 550 new vehicles hitting the roads in Bangkok every day.

Armenian president warns of anarchy if defeated

YEREVAN (R) — Armenia celebrated five years of independence from the old Soviet Union Saturday, the eve of elections which will decide the fate of President Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan, who has led Armenia through five years of economic turmoil and confrontation with neighbouring Azerbaijan, told Armenians Friday evening they would face "anarchy, confusion and tyranny" if they chose his main rival, former Prime Minister Vazgen Manukyan.

Several thousand troops backed by dozens of tanks, artillery pieces and modern surface-to-air rockets paraded through Yerevan's Republic Square Saturday as the 50-year-old president watched from a reviewing stand.

MIG-23 warplanes flying low overhead shook buildings and decorative red smoke streamed from attack helicopters. Tens of thousands of Armenians gathered for the show strolled about the city centre and listened to a free concert on the square after it was over.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan was clearly worried by a stronger than expected challenge by Mr. Manukyan.

In a 10 minute television campaign address, he painted a doomsday scenario of life under a Manukyan presidency and suggested his rival's election would lead to civil war in the impoverished Caucasus state.

"I know Vazgen Manukyan and I know what his election would mean. I must raise this alarm in order to exclude the slightest possibility that a mistake could be made," he said.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan argued that virtually every aspect of life in the small country sandwiched between Iran, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Turkey would disintegrate if he were to lose power.

He said Mr. Manukyan's "populist" ideas would lead to institutions like the International Monetary Fund cutting off vital loans, and that his proposed coalition government would lead to a power vacuum. He said that Armenia's eight year-war with Azerbaijan over territory, frozen under a ceasefire for over two years, could re-ignite.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan's recent tough rhetoric is a major change from his usually aloof approach. But his former ally

Manukyan has gained ground from promises to raise wages by up to 10 times, reviving domestic industry and attracting investment.

His chances have been boosted by a wide coalition of opposition groups backing him. Several presidential candidates have withdrawn from the race and backed him.

Also on the ballot are Communist Sergei Badalyan and Ashtot Manucharyan of the Scientific-Industrial Citizens Union.

Mr. Manucharyan has practically given up his candidacy and his campaign backers have been telling voters to vote for Mr. Manukyan.

Mr. Manukyan served at various times as prime minister and defence minister under Mr. Ter-Petrosyan, who has dominated Armenia's political scene since the country began moving towards independence in the late 1980s.

If no candidate gets 50 per cent of the vote, a second round will be held in two weeks between the two frontrunners.

Armenians have at least some reason to celebrate. The economy has shown strong progress over the last year as it has started to rise from the ashes of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

A chronic shortage of electricity, once the hallmark of the republic's misery, has been greatly relieved and the city's hundreds of new businesses and restaurants are now illuminated by flashy neon and electronic signs.

But the return of the electric light bulb has not proven enough for many people still mired in poverty, and they are the ones most likely to vote for Mr. Manukyan.

Polls open at 0800 (0400 GMT) and close at 2200 (0800). Independent analysts say a high turnout among the 2.4 million eligible voters might be bad news for Mr. Ter-Petrosyan.

Opinion polls, while regarded as not reliable in Armenia, have shown him leading but Mr. Manukyan's popularity rising.

Several dozen international observers will monitor voting.

Drugs found on Colombian leader's U.S.-bound jet

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — More than seven pounds of heroin was found stashed aboard Colombian President Ernesto Samper's jet just hours before he was due to leave on an official visit to U.N. headquarters in New York, authorities said Saturday.

They said 7.4 pounds (3.3 kg) of heroin were discovered hidden in 14 cigarette packs stashed in the nose and tail section of the Boeing 707 aircraft during an inspection at the Catam Military Air Base on the outskirts of Bogota.

Police sources had earlier mistakenly identified the plane as a Fokker.

Air Force Commander Hector Hernandez Gil said the inspection, at 10 p.m. Friday (0300 GMT Saturday), was prompted by an anonymous telephone caller who tipped off authorities to the existence of the heroin.

Justice Minister Carlos Medellin, who joined Commander Gil and National Police Chief Gen. Rosso Jose Serrano at a pre-dawn news conference called to discuss the embarrassing discovery, said the heroin had apparently been planted by criminals seeking to add to Mr. Samper's drug-tainted image abroad.

"They're trying to muddy the name of the president and his government," Mr. Medellin said, adding that Mr. Samper may have faced arrest at New York's JFK International Airport if the drug stash had been discovered there.

No arrests were made in connection with the discovery aboard the aircraft, which was due to depart at 10 a.m. local time (1500 GMT) Saturday for New York.

Gen. Serrano said the prime suspects of having planted

the drug were air force technicians responsible for routine inspections of the ageing 707. "There may be some involvement by one or two air force people but not by the air force itself," he said.

According to Commander Gil, the plane's most recent itinerary included stopovers in the southwest city of Cali and northwestern Mr. Medellin on routine test flights ahead of Mr. Samper's four-day trip to New York, where he is to address the United Nations General Assembly on Monday afternoon.

Mr. Samper's private secretary told reporters there were no plans to delay the president's departure despite the drug find.

Mr. Samper, whose 1994 election campaign allegedly received millions of dollars from the Cali drug cartel, was stripped of his U.S. travel visa on July 11 because of

what Washington described as his known ties to the narcotics trade.

The travel restriction generally does not affect heads of state visiting U.N. Headquarters, however, and U.S. State Department spokeswoman Susan Snyder told Reuters by telephone that no limitations had been placed on Mr. Samper's movements during his stay in New York.

Colombia, the source of 80 per cent of the world's cocaine, was identified by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration earlier this month as the top supplier of heroin to the United States.

In a separate development, Colombia's leftist guerrillas unleashed a wave of bombings and attacks across the country Friday in a new offensive against the government of embattled Mr. Samper.

Murtaza Bhutto killed during shootout with police

Wife appeals for calm as news of killing spreads

KARACHI (AFP) — The killing of the estranged younger brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto sent shockwaves through Pakistan Saturday as his wife appealed for calm ahead of his funeral later in the day.

"He died as he had lived — fearlessly and with dignity," Murtaza Bhutto's widow, Ghinva, said in a statement issued hours after his death from wounds sustained in a shootout with police late Friday.

"He sacrificed his life because of a belief in this country and I pray that his dreams for this nation will not die with him."

"I appeal to all those who believe as he did, and who shared that dream to find answers through peaceful means, to struggle for the cause he espoused, with calm and dignity. Only then will his sacrifice not have been in vain."

Six of Murtaza's supporters also died in the confrontation with police near his Karachi home.

Murtaza, who was critically injured with bullet wounds to the chin and neck, died in an operating theatre three hours later.

Four others were injured in the shootout, including two police officers.

There were conflicting reports of who fired first, with police claiming Murtaza's security guards opened fire without provocation.

But a Murtaza supporter wounded in the battle, which reportedly began when police stopped vehicles escorting Ms. Bhutto's brother, said police fired first.

There were outpourings of grief in several towns in the



Ghinva, widow of Murtaza Bhutto, leaves the Karachi hospital Saturday. Murtaza, the estranged brother of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, was killed with another six of his followers in a gunfight with the police in Karachi (Reuters photo)

southern province of Sind where Murtaza had built up a following. In his hometown of Larkana people wailed on the streets and flung themselves against walls in grief.

Murtaza's mother, Nusrat, arrived in Karachi from London at midday and was received by Ms. Bhutto. Witnesses said the women clung to each other and wept.

Nusrat then went to her son's home but did not

make any statement and her staff asked for privacy on her behalf.

News of the killings sent shockwaves through the country as people reacted with general disbelief and surprise.

"Murtaza's death could create a law and order problem but we are hoping there will be no more bloodshed," one government official said, on condition of anonymity.

Nusrat then went to her son's home but did not

make any statement and her staff asked for privacy on her behalf.

News of the killings sent shockwaves through the country as people reacted with general disbelief and surprise.

"Murtaza's death could create a law and order problem but we are hoping there will be no more bloodshed," one government official said, on condition of anonymity.

Nusrat then went to her son's home but did not

make any statement and her staff asked for privacy on her behalf.

News of the killings sent shockwaves through the country as people reacted with general disbelief and surprise.

"Murtaza's death could create a law and order problem but we are hoping there will be no more bloodshed," one government official said, on condition of anonymity.

Nusrat then went to her son's home but did not



A grieving Pakistani sits behind the body of Murtaza Bhutto, the estranged brother of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, at a Karachi hospital Saturday (Reuters photo)

za's death is not likely to create widespread disturbances.

"He simply did not have mass support," an official said.

Later Saturday, Murtaza's body was airlifted to his hometown of Larkana, officials said.

His shrouded body was placed in one helicopter and his mother, widow and daughter Fatima boarded another helicopter near Murtaza's Clifton home, they added.

Young men tried to cling to the helicopter carrying Murtaza's body but fell to the ground as the helicopter took off, witnesses said.

The prime minister was expected to fly to Larkana two hours later, officials said.

Murtaza will be buried in the Bhutto family's ancestral graveyard at Garhi Khuda Baksh near Larkana.

some 310 kilometres north of here, where his father former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Murtaza's brother Shah Nawaz are also interred.

Murtaza was the third scion of the Bhutto clan to die a violent death. His father was overthrown in a military coup in 1977 and hanged in 1979.

Murtaza's brother Shah Nawaz died under mysterious circumstances in Cannes in 1985. He is believed to have been poisoned.

Pakistan's opposition leaders voiced shock Saturday at the killing of the prime minister's brother in a police shootout, and accused her government of giving police a free hand.

As supporters of Murtaza Bhutto wept and prayed as his body was taken home from the hospital, the government was accused of turning Pakistan into a

police state.

Pakistan's main opposition leader, Nawaz Sharif, branded the killing of Murtaza a "dastardly murder."

Speaking in parliament, the former prime minister said the death was a consequence of "state terrorism and political vendetta" of the Bhutto government.

"It does not behove any government in the world to curb dissent with bullets," he said, adding the government had pushed the country into a "very alarming" law and order situation.

Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar was booed in parliament with shouts of "butcher, butcher" and "monkey with a razor" when he briefly addressed the assembly to mourn Murtaza's death and pay tribute to him.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad, head of the main fundamen-

talist party the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), said Murtaza's killing "is part of a conspiracy to make Pakistan a police state and crush democratic freedom."

The incident in Karachi "further establishes" that the Bhutto government has "no right" to continue in office, Mr. Ahmad said in a statement.

Sardar Zulfikar Khosa, a provincial general secretary of the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML), said the government "has converted the country into a police state," the death of Benazir Bhutto's brother "is a true example of this," Mr. Khosa said.

Ms. Bhutto expressed her sense of "deep shock and grief over the ugly incident" before rushing to Karachi, where police and paramilitary personnel were placed on high alert for fears of a backlash.

Dole, Clinton spar over drugs; Perot wants debate

WASHINGTON (R) — The Dole and Clinton campaigns swapped charges Friday over which candidate has a greater commitment to the war on drugs, as Ross Perot challenged the decision to bar him from presidential debate.

In a pair of apparent tit-for-tat campaign ads, President Bill Clinton and Republican challenger Bob Dole belittled each other's record on the drug problem.

Sen. Dole's television spot targeted Mr. Clinton's 1992 admission on MTV, the music video network, that he tried to smoke marijuana in his youth but was unable to inhale.

"Bill Clinton doesn't get it," the ad copy reads. "But we do." A final graphic reads, "Clinton's liberal drug policy has failed."

Mr. Clinton campaign spokesman Joe Lockhart said the Dole ad "should be seen as a desperate act by a desperate campaign," faulting the approach as a negative personal attack.

But at the same time, the Clinton camp unveiled a new advertisement of its own that took pointed aim at Sen. Dole, including footage of him repeating his

new anti-drug mantra, "just don't do it."

"To fight drugs, all Bob Dole offers are slogans," the ad says, and goes on to say Sen. Dole voted to cut Mr. Clinton's school anti-drug efforts and other programmes that would have limited cigarette advertising targeting children.

Congressional Republicans continued the theme on Capitol Hill, where they raised questions about reported past drug use by White House personnel.

"I believe the American people need reassurance that the Clinton administration has not critically compromised the procedures by which people can gain access to national security information," Representative John Mica of Florida told the House of Representatives Government Reform Subcommittee.

Mr. Clinton was campaigning in Portland, Oregon, on the second day of a bus caravan through the Pacific northwest, stressing his abilities as a budget-cutter.

"We're bringing common sense to government," Mr. Clinton told an outdoor rally, saying his efforts to

overhaul the federal government had generated \$118 billion in taxpayer savings and cut 240,000 government jobs.

Mr. Clinton was riding high in opinion polls, and White House political affairs director Doug Sosnik said Mr. Clinton held comfortable leads in key states holding a total of 185 electoral votes, including California, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. It takes 270 electoral votes to win the presidency.

In Washington, Reform Party candidate Perot filed a formal complaint with the Federal Election Commission against the Commission on Presidential Debates, which recommended this week that Mr. Perot be excluded from any face-offs between Sen. Dole and Mr. Clinton.

The Perot campaign said it also plans to file a lawsuit Monday challenging the constitutionality of the commission's decision.

Meanwhile, Acting in the dead of night, President Bill Clinton early Saturday banned the federal government from recognising a marriage between members

of the same sex by signing into law a bill that he did not want to see land on his desk.

President Clinton put his signature to the law after midnight upon returning to the White House from the four-day, cross-country campaign swing. A White House aide had prepared the paperwork for him to sign Friday night while President Clinton was still out of town.

In a written statement issued during a campaign stop in South Dakota, the president said he was signing the legislation because he has "long opposed governmental recognition of same-gender marriages and this legislation is consistent with that position."

His signing of the bill was likely to spark protests from gay groups whose support he counted on to win election in 1992.

During his reelection campaign this year, the political calculation seemed to be that gays would still support him because many do not consider legalising same-sex marriages their top priority.

Pope calls for new spirit of charity

TOURS, France (R) — Pope John Paul, on the third day of a visit to France, put the focus on the need to help the weak, honouring a fourth century saint who shared his cloak with a poor man dying of cold.

His praise of Saint Martin at an outdoor mass Saturday to mark the 1,600th anniversary of his death set the tone for a day on which the Pontiff launched a strong appeal for solidarity with the weakest members of society.

"Here in France the church has been singing the hymn to charity for 16 centuries," the 76-year-old Pope, on his last visit abroad before surgery to remove his appendix, told worshippers gathered in sunshine at Tours Military Airport.

"Saint Martin was an admirable apostle, but it is not sufficient just to remember. In the various situations of today, be in your turn living members of the living church," he said.

Saint Martin, born in 336 in what is now Hungary, helped spread Christianity through much of Western Europe.

He was a young Roman officer when, according to legend, he tore his cloak to share it with a poor man freezing to death at the gates to the northern city of Amiens. Martin was later Bishop of Tours, where he died in 397 aged 61.

His relics are held in the central city's basilica, where the Pope was due later Saturday to meet 190 "casualties of life" — people living in poverty or distress, including a prostitute, an AIDS victim, homosexuals, tramps and immigrants.

Greeks to vote Sunday after parties heat up poll campaign

ATHENS (AFP) — After an unusually heated election campaign, Greeks vote Sunday for the first time since the death of veteran leader Andreas Papandreu, with both the ruling Socialists and rival conservatives claiming to be ahead in the polls.

Personal styles have been at the forefront of the battle, while political debate has focused on ties with European Union allies and Greece's recurring territorial conflict with Turkey.

Prime Minister Costas Simitis's Pan Hellenic Socialist Party (PASOK) claims to have a "solid lead" but the New Democracy (ND) party led by Kiriakos Mitsotakis says last polls gave it "a two-point lead."

Mr. Simitis, 60, who became prime minister in January, says voters have a choice between a "new Greece" which would be part of a united Europe, and a return of the right which has been in the political wilderness since 1981 apart from a short interlude between 1990 and 1993.

Campaigners for Mr. Simitis have denounced Mr. Mitsotakis as "incompetent" for making rash pledges without regard for budget realities and referred to him as Greece's version of French extreme rightwing nationalist leader Jean-Marie Le Pen because of his stand on immigration.

Mr. Mitsotakis, a stout and genial man, has in turn poked fun at his rival's more austere image, criticising his cold manner and his intellectual look which he maintains cannot

relate to most people's everyday concerns.

The electioneering is unusual in the country which coined the phrase "couch campaign" to describe the luke-warm interest in polls largely conducted in the past via television.

Party leaders embarked on a "balcony campaign" addressing crowds in public places, temperatures rising at political meetings and party stands jostling for space on Athens' streets.

The ND has aimed its campaign at ordinary Greeks, particularly farmers and pensioners who felt they lost a champion when Mr. Papandreu died in June and who are apprehensive about European integration.

On Turkey, Mr. Mitsotakis has accused Mr. Simitis of "lowering the Greek flag" in the row over a rocky islet in the Aegean Sea which brought the two countries to the brink of war in January.

But Mr. Simitis says his government has succeeded in mobilising the European Union, the United States and Russia against Turkish "barbarism."

"Turkey is playing with fire on all Greek borders, in Thrace, in the Aegean Sea, in Cyprus," he said.

Paradoxically, the election is expected to see the return to parliament of the Muslim Turkish minority because both PASOK and the ND are fielding candidates regarded as "hardliners" close to Turkey — a spectacular volte-face since the January standoff.

CIA faces probe over drug trafficking allegations

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. Justice Department has begun an investigation into claims the CIA was helping funnel drug profits to Nicaraguan rebels in the 1980s, a senior official said.

"Today I opened an investigation into allegations that federal agencies helped funnel drug profits to rebels in Nicaragua, known as the contras, in the 1980s," Justice Department Inspector General Michael Bromwich said Friday.

On Thursday, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director John Deutch pledged an "absolutely independent and thorough inquiry" into the allegations.

The CIA's inspector general is investigating the matter as well as the White House anti-drug czar's office.

A California newspaper, the San Jose Mercury News, last month uncovered the alleged alliance between the CIA and drug traffickers to finance the Nicaraguan rebels in their effort to overthrow the 1979-1990 Sandinista government.

Black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson Friday demanded a full congressional probe of the allegations.

The affair has been a huge controversy in the black community since the traffickers were reported to have brought in cocaine stock which was converted into highly addictive crack cocaine that has been a plague in poor, black neighbourhoods.

"How low can they go?" Rev. Jackson said in Chicago, adding that those found to be responsible

"must face the full weight of justice."

Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein from California said "the integrity of our justice system is at stake," in this case.

"It is completely unacceptable for the United States to have been involved in any way with the trafficking of drugs over our borders," she added.

Democratic Representative Maxine Waters, also from California, released a letter Friday from House Speaker Newt Gingrich stating that the House Intelligence Committee also will look into the matter, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The Mercury News series traced the crack cocaine explosion to two Nicaraguan cocaine dealers, Danilo Blandon and Norwin

Meneses, who were civilian leaders of the Frente Democrática Nicaraguense (FDN), an anti-Communist commando group formed and run by the CIA during the 1980s.

Mr. Blandon, who is now an undercover informant for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), admitted in federal court recently that his biggest customer was a south-central crack dealer in Los Angeles named "Freeway" Rick Ross.

Mr. Ross reportedly turned Mr. Blandon's cocaine into crack and distributed it to the Crips and Bloods street gangs. Mr. Blandon told the DEA in 1995 that at the height of his business with Mr. Ross, he was providing 100 kilos of cocaine a week to the gangs.

1 killed, 24 hurt in Kashmir poll violence

SRINAGAR, India (R) — One person was killed and at least 24 seriously wounded in a string of blasts in India's troubled Jammu and Kashmir state during the third phase of key local assembly elections Saturday, police said.

Six paramilitary troops were among the 24 wounded, police said. The Press Trust of India (PTI) reported at least 37 persons had been wounded.

A police spokesman said militants hurled a grenade at a paramilitary picket guarding a polling station in the Gandarbal district of Srinagar, where former State Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah is a candidate in Saturday's leg of assembly elections.

One person was killed in this explosion, which also wounded a number of others. The other injuries reported during the day oc-

curred in attacks in various areas.

PTI said separatist militants lobbed grenades at some polling stations in Srinagar but did not say if there were any casualties.

Police also said a landmine in the town of Charar-e-Sharif, 30 kilometres east of the state's summer capital Srinagar, wrecked a building and a bus. There were no casualties.

Appa Sahib Allur, chief of Kashmir's Border Security Force (BSF), told Reuters in Srinagar there were three explosions, including two grenade attacks on a security patrol Friday night. Militants also fired on security pickets.

"A powerful explosion Saturday morning rocked Karamdan Pora in downtown Srinagar near a polling station," Mr. Allur said.

The blast was aimed at a

polling station, but he said there was no damage.

Residents in downtown Srinagar reported dozens of explosions through the night ahead of the third phase of the local elections in Kashmir that began on Sept. 7 and conclude on Sept. 30. At least 20 people have been killed in the month-long campaign.

Separatist militants and their political supporters oppose the polls, part of India's effort to restore democracy in Jammu and Kashmir after more than six years of direct rule by New Delhi.

Tens of thousands of Indian security personnel have been poured into some of the most sensitive areas of Srinagar where officials have identified four districts as particularly prone to violence.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
الصحف اليومية العربية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 684311, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Mission unaccomplished

WHILE PEACE talks on the Palestinian front are almost stalemated, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which provides the basic needs of over three million Palestinian refugees scattered all over the Middle East, is facing an "acute shortage" in funds for its operations in the region. UNRWA has put its budget deficit for this year at \$45 million unless the emergency meeting of donor and host countries scheduled in Amman Monday comes up with a formula for an emergency funding for the agency. Unless the Amman conference succeeds in raising the necessary donations, the agency says it will be forced to scale down its social, educational and health services. Jordan will be most severely affected since it hosts one third of all Palestinian refugees who depend on the U.N. agency for their basic needs.

The director of UNRWA operations in Jordan, Robert Hopkins, has recently confirmed that "all donor and host countries are in agreement that the agency should continue to provide services to the refugees until a solution has been found to (their) problem." While nobody expects a solution to the problem in the near future, Jordan, where poverty is still a major problem and unemployment at a record high, can do very little to shoulder the socio-economic cost of the refugees.

Unfortunately, many donor countries have assumed that with the onset of the peace process in the area, the settlement of the Palestinian question in all its manifestations and dimensions was within reach. This premature euphoria has led to diminished contributions to UNRWA and to the false speculation that the agency has outlived its usefulness. As a matter of fact nothing could be further from the truth. To treat UNRWA as a defunct agency or to entertain the belief that the Palestinian refugee problem has ceased to exist as a pressing issue is tantamount to indulging in false hopes.

UNRWA's Commissioner General Peter Hansen is also convening in Amman today a meeting for the 10 countries on the agency's Advisory Commission to review its annual report to the U.N. General Assembly. Coming as it does on the eve of Monday's emergency meeting, the deliberations of the Advisory Commission can offer a valuable opportunity to review also the financial hardships facing the agency. The commission member states comprising the Arab host countries as well as the U.S., Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium and Turkey, are called upon to make a special appeal to all potential donors to extend urgent help at this critical stage in the peace process. There is nothing worse than having despair permeate the lives of the refugees at this juncture in the search for a permanent settlement to the Palestinian question. We, therefore, join all those who have appealed for meaningful donations to UNRWA so that it may continue to be able to make the lives of so many Palestinians that much more manageable in anticipation of a genuine breakthrough in the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN LIGHT of the recent developments in Iraq one can safely conclude that the United States, which has appointed itself the policeman of the world, is acting in a manner that lacks morals, said a writer for Al Ra'i. While finding Baghdad's 24-hours intervention in the Kurdish region, which is an Iraqi territory, at the request of its own people, an unforgettable sin, the U.S. is condoning the atrocities of its own allies and friends, said Fahed Al Fanek. Without any mandate from the United Nations, and without due cause, the Americans launched missile attacks on Iraqi positions killing innocent civilians, but it has condoned Moscow's war on the Chechens that devastated the country and killed 80,000 people, said the writer. The U.S. is condoning Israel's recurrent air raids on southern Lebanon and its continued occupation of lands belonging to three Arab states and it has also condoned and encouraged Turkey's repeated attacks on the Kurds inside Iraqi territory, continued the writer. He said the U.S. has even turned a blind eye to incursions inside Iraqi lands by Iranian forces in pursuit of the Kurds who America claims to be protecting. Washington, which encouraged Iraq and Iran to fight each other for eight years, providing them with weapons, had sought to weaken both parties; and by giving Baghdad the green light to occupy Kuwait, the U.S. paved the way for destroying Iraq, he added. The writer said that Saddam Hussein was no Hitler before threatening American oil interest in the Gulf, but became that in the eyes of the U.S. once a conflict of interest emerged.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Lifting subsidies outweighs negative side effects in the long run

JORDANIAN CITIZENS proved themselves to be economically rational. When the government raised the price of bread by 159 per cent, they responded by reducing their purchases of bread by 40 per cent.

Taking into account that the actual consumption of bread could not have changed due to the elasticity of demand on this basic commodity and the absence of a substitute, we can conclude that 40 per cent of the wheat we used to import was wasted and either thrown in the trash bins or used as fodder for poultry and cattle.

In fact, the reduction of family purchases of bread means that the extra cost of bread to the family is reduced to 55.3 per cent and not 159 per cent of the previous price. The reason is that the actual cost per consumed kilogramme was in effect 14.2 fils, including the price of wasted bread, calculated as 85 fils divided into 60 per cent equals 14.2 fils.

The correction in the manner of offering the subsidy, by shifting from general subsidy across the board to a targeted cash subsidy, will reduce the bill of imported wheat by some \$65 million a year. Amounts payable in cash to compensate the difference of prices do not represent a national cost, they are merely a transfer of value which results in redistribution of income in favour of targeted groups of the society.

Also, our citizens showed a rational behaviour by

switching from white bread, priced at 220 fils per kilogramme, to brown bread, made of local wheat and priced at 180 fils. Brown bread used to make up less than 5 per cent of the overall bread consumption in the country before removing the subsidy, but rose to 30 per cent after the removal of subsidy. Needless to say that brown bread is healthier than white bread.

The average Jordanian reacted properly to the sudden change of prices, even though the demand on the subject commodity is supposed to be completely inelastic. The immediate alteration in the pattern of consumption proved that pricing is the single most potent instrument to influence consumption behaviour. Rationalising by means of pricing and appealing without raising prices is in vain.

Having gone through this experiment, it became evident that subsidies are tantamount to corruption. They distort behaviour and encourage waste. The result is higher imports of the subsidised goods and, consequently, higher payments in foreign exchange, which could be saved for other purposes.

At this juncture, it is worthwhile to dwell a little bit on the exaggerated fears of a general rise in prices of consumer goods, including other goods which have wheat as one of their inputs. In this regard, we claim that the overall rise in the cost of living in Jordan as a result of the removal of wheat subsidy will not exceed 2 per cent.

From now on, Jordan's consumption of wheat will decline to around 450 thousand tonnes. The new prices mean that the consumers will be required to pay an extra JD 60 million a year for bread and all other related commodities. The aggregate amount of private consumption of all goods and services in 1996 is expected to top JD 3,000 million, which means that the JD 60 rise of wheat price will cost 2.0 per cent.

Admittedly, this is a static analysis of the effect of price hike of wheat and flour. Other factors may make the impact bigger. The rise in the cost of living index will not be far from a one-time shift of 2 per cent rise which appeared in August. This is a tolerable increase, especially when we take into account that the major part, if not all, of the extra cost will be compensated in cash.

However, psychological factors and the big noise that accompanied the removal of wheat subsidy may create a momentum and cause prices to rise by an additional 2 per cent. The extra 2 per cent will be temporary and may be reversed in the coming months when the dust settles.

An increase of 4 per cent in the cost of living index of August 1996 should not be a surprise; in the longer run, the positive results of removing subsidies will far outweigh the negative side effects.

Afro-Arab relations — time for evaluation and action

By John Gay Yob

AFRO-ARAB relations have always been regulated by personal ties between the founding fathers. African leaders of the independence era had close ties with their Arab counterparts. They had common causes and enemies: independence, the British and the French. Those days are gone and so are most of the leaders.

As a student of Middle Eastern studies, there was always one problem that I found difficult to solve: What is the proper name that one can use when writing about this region: The Middle East, the Arab region, the Muslim World, the Gulf, Asia or the Mediterranean world? What about northern African states? Anyway, for the purpose of this article, I will use the Arab World.

For a long time the Arab-Israeli conflict has shaped the close cooperation ties which existed between the Arab World and Africa. Similarly, the apartheid system in South Africa brought about good relations between the two regions. That cooperation was so lively that it developed into a pattern and a habit in the voting system at the U.N.

and in the Non-Aligned Movement.

Then, the sudden collapse of the Berlin Wall, and with it the demise of communism in Eastern Europe, had a great impact on the Afro-African relations. The two bitter long-time enemies, Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin, surprised everyone with a historical handshake in the White House garden in Washington. President De Clark of the white minority rule in South Africa made a historic concession to the 27-year-old prisoner, Nelson Mandela, thus bringing to an end an over 300-year-old conflict in the Southern African region.

Elsewhere in Africa, Namibia and Eritrea were born. Angola, Mozambique and Ethiopia settled their internal conflicts as the cold war chapter was turned over.

With these major changes behind, a new chapter of political cooperation is really needed if Afro-Arab traditional ties are to be preserved. The old ingredients are no longer there and the vacuum has to be filled.

Where the economic ties are concerned, one must admit that no serious work had been done to improve

them. The Arab World is satisfied with its European and Asian markets. The Africans would like to buy Arab oil and energy products, but the prices are very high. Therefore, one important thing that the Middle Eastern decision makers should know is that while the Middle East is today the world leading region in oil products, it is also true that Africa is the only region in the world whose resources are not yet exploited.

Naturally, Africa will in the future be the world reserve of almost everything; hence, it should from now on be the closest economic partner to the Middle East.

Definitely, the question of water is going to create some problems between the two regions in the next decades. We have already seen Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen and Ethiopia at loggerheads with each other because of water. A careful, but serious approach is required to settle this potential timing bomb between Africans and their Arab neighbours.

Then comes the case of the Muslim radical groups. Several African countries are accusing Islamic groups in the Middle East of sup-

porting Islamic groups in Africa to create instability there. Many nations in Africa have shown concern with this new wave of Islamic radicalism. On the top of the list of African countries which have so far expressed their concern are: South Africa, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Nigeria, Kenya, Mauritania. A peaceful formula through which the activities of these groups are contained is urgently needed.

Another social aspect, but a potential time bomb in Afro-Arab relations that requires urgent solution, is the future of hundreds of thousands of Middle Eastern businessmen and their families working in Africa. Several hundreds of these people had already lost their properties in the Central African Republic, Liberia, Angola, Sierra Leone and Zaire, due to what is often quoted as their involvement in illegal business, i.e. smuggling of diamonds and gold. A solution has to be found to this unhealthy behaviour because the future of thousands of families is involved in this sensitive case.

Then there is another unpleasant issue that might develop later into a big

problem: it regards the treatment of hundreds of thousands of African domestic servants. Young girls from eastern and western African nations are lured by local agents of business firms to go to the Gulf and the Middle East with attractive promises to get handsome pay and comfortable lives. Once in the region, the girls are shocked to learn that what they were brought in to do is nothing other than mere domestic servanthood, where they are closed off from the outside world, with all hardships involved.

I remember joining a group of 50 Addis Ababa girls on board Egypt Air last July on their way to Beirut. I asked one of them if she knows what awaits them; she could not answer; instead she asked me to give her addresses of any of my friends, having known that I had lived in that city for a long time; I also learned that a similar number leaves Asmara twice a week to the Gulf and the Middle East. I think this aspect of Afro-Arab relations really needs a special treatment, otherwise it will cause serious havoc in the next decade.

Education is another area where Africans and Arabs should cooperate. And I

would suggest that there is need for the establishment of an Afro-Arab Studies Centre to carry out studies on the two regions. Its major objective would be, among other things, to provide decision makers of the two regions with appropriate information which can be used in strengthening relations.

For the last four decades, several hundreds African students did their higher education in the Middle East, particularly students from northern and western African countries who specialise in Islamic studies. Some of these scholars go back home to become important figures in the political field. However, others get recruited into some radical religious groups operating in Africa. It is this group of students which deserves

Definitely a lot has changed in the world during the last six years. So have Afro-Arab relations. I think there is need for a free from politics environment for a reevaluation of Afro-Arab relations, for the sake of coming generation.

The author is a visiting fellow at the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies in Amman. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Lots of money for arms but ever less for development aid

By Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON — A few months ago, Americans received two pieces of disconcerting information.

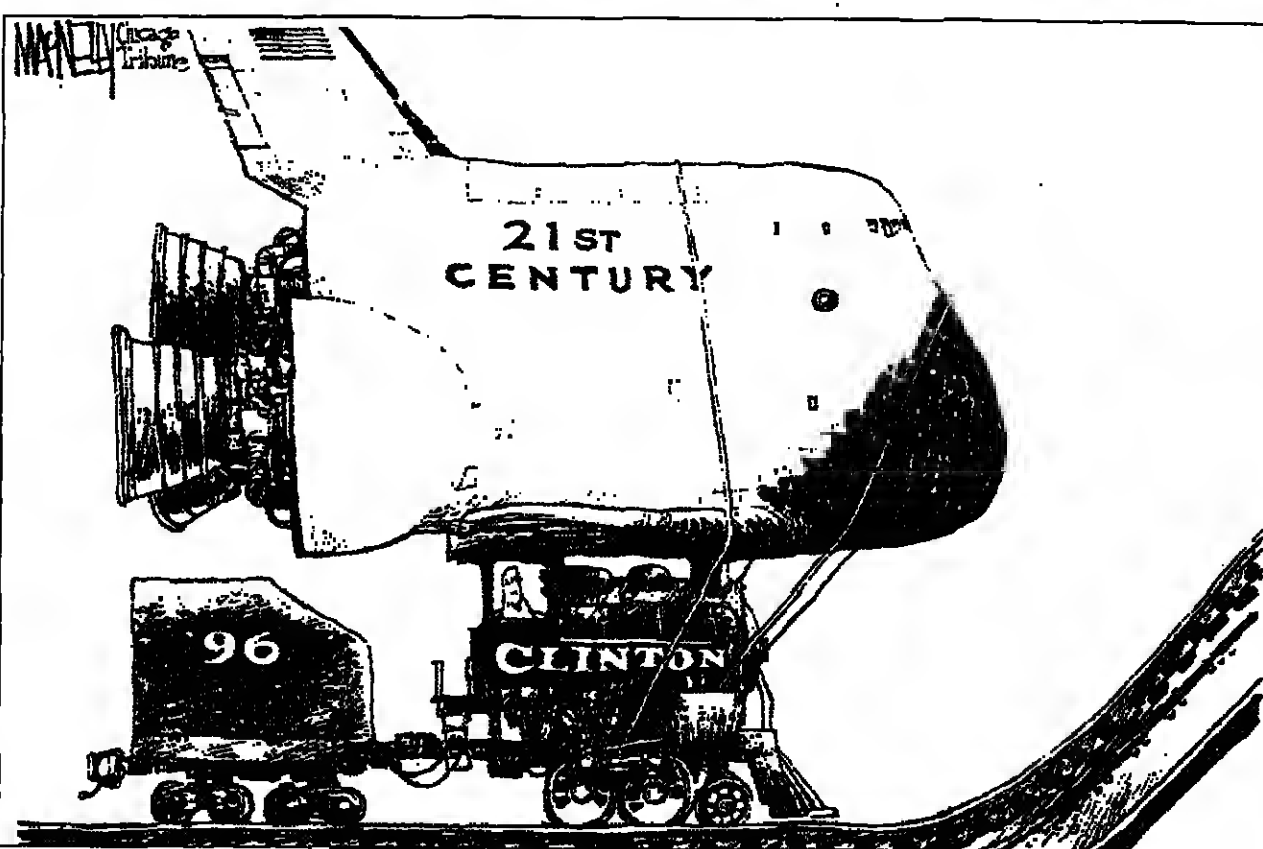
The World Bank reported that 20 per cent of the globe's people live on less than one dollar a day, and that their numbers had increased from 1.23 billion in 1987 to 1.31 billion in 1993.

From the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), the news involved the habits of the rich: how the wealth of the United States was being used. The Department of Defence, according to the GAO, has on hand \$9 billion worth of bullets, shells and missiles that are either too old or too deteriorated to aim at someone. In addition, another \$22 billion in weapons is surplus inventory: ammo in excess of what is needed in war-fighting requirements.

The contrast between the world's poverty and America's military extravagance is worsening. The Defence Department is so flush with weapons that it has been giving them away.

The Arms Sales Monitoring Project of the Federation of American Scientists found that in the past six years \$7 billion worth of military hardware, from planes to pistols, was transferred abroad, mostly to developing nations that either paid nothing or won supersaver discounts.

Surplus arms giveaways have included 3,900 battle



tanks, 500 attack jets and millions of rounds of ammunition.

Pentagon freebies went to Egypt in the form of 700 M-60 tanks, machines that cost U.S. taxpayers \$1.3 million each. Argentina picked up 90 free fighter planes, Mexico 48,000 M-1 carbines, Israel 2,400 grenade launchers, Turkey 48 Cobra helicopters, Greece 672 tanks, Morocco 20 F16s, Bahrain 60 guided missiles.

Gifts from the rich uncle in Washington are occasionally rejected. In 1994, the U.S. Air

Force offered 50 A-10 attack jets to Turkey, which declined due to lack of funds to refurbish the secondhand planes.

In 1993, the U.S. Army held a five-day garage sale in El Paso, Texas, in which military envoys from NATO nations, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Taiwan and other states browsed the aisles for hand-me-downs.

Regardless of which dictatorships or human rights violators are receiving this cascade of free or cheap booty, or how many civilians are being killed

by the U.S. arsenal, it is profitable for America's weapons business. While the Pentagon ships out old weapons, corporate gunrunners from Lockheed Martin to General Electric can hustle deals for the new.

The U.S. share of the global arms market is 52 per cent, up from 25 per cent in 1987.

As U.S. foreign aid in weapons thrives at record levels, humanitarian aid in food, health and education wanes. It has been true for years that of the world's 21 leading industrial nations the United States

ranks last in the percentage of GNP for overseas development assistance. The current percentage, 0.10, is the lowest since this statistical measurement was introduced in 1950.

This sinking promises to continue. The American Council for Voluntary International Action reports that U.S. overseas development assistance fell by 28 per cent in 1995.

When not slashing humanitarian programmes, Republican majorities in the House and Senate attacked the U.S. Agency for International

Development, the major overseer of economic and social aid, as if it were recklessly dropping money from the skies. The agency should get smart by declaring itself a part of the Pentagon, and then proceed to do what the Pentagon does best — give away the store.

Further social cuts are planned. The International Fund for Agricultural Development, a U.N. agency esteemed for both efficiency and humaneness in decreasing rural hunger through loaning farmers in poor countries, received a \$30 million authorisation from Congress this year. The Agency for International Development, citing pressures caused by the 23 per cent cut in its budget, now threatens to withhold the money.

There has not been a time in modern history when one nation has had its values as morally skewed as the United States. In the developed world, it ranks first as the supplier of weapons that kill people and last in getting aid to feed people.

Several dozen American business leaders met in Washington on June 27 to protest an \$11 billion increase by Congress in military spending, a sum that the money-addicted Pentagon itself doesn't want. Among the group was Ben Cohen of Ben & Jerry's ice cream. For the occasion, and for anyone needing a quick description of current U.S. values, Mr. Cohen offered scoops of his latest flavour, "Totally Nuts."

The Washington Post

Renewable energies — the logical choice

By Thomas Johansson

IN 1990 renewable sources of energy, including biomass and hydropower, contributed about 20 per cent of the world's primary energy consumption. Given the large resource base for renewables and the ever improving technology, this share can only increase in the decades to come.

The wind power industry, for example, launched in the 1980s, today produces more than 3,700 megawatts worldwide, and scientists are now working on large scale wind farms that could produce gigawatts of energy (a billion watts). Costs have fallen sharply since the mid-1980s, and in windy parts of the U.S., wind energy rivals new coal plants. Areas such as the Gobi Desert in Mongolia and the Western Sahara offer fabulous production sites, with their vast

expanses, high wind speeds and low population density.

Going solar

The cost of electricity produced by photo-voltaic (PV) devices is also falling. PV module prices in 1992 were one-tenth of those in 1976 as cumulative production increased 1,000-fold.

They create no pollution, can be operated unattended almost anywhere and require little maintenance. The technology works most economically on a small scale close to users not connected to national grids. But large-scale, grid-connected applications are fast becoming possible.

On the other hand, solar thermal technologies that use mirrors or lenses to concentrate the sun's rays onto a heat exchanger, are already being incorporated in power plant projects in several developing coun-

tries and could result in several hundred megawatts of new installations before 2000.

Biomass is another major alternative energy source. Wood accounts for 90 per cent of biomass energy sources and is used largely for cooking and heating in developing countries. Traditionally used, this poses a certain number of problems — such as indoor pollution from fire, land degradation and the fact that users (mainly women) must often cover tens of kilometres to gather the fuel they need. Modernised though, it has vast potential.

There is no net atmospheric CO₂ build-up from using biomass grown sustainably because CO₂ released in combustion is compensated for by that withdrawn from the atmosphere during growth.

Possible energy supplies include municipal solid

waste (produced at per capita rates of between 0.9 and 1.9 kg/day in industrialised countries), industrial and agricultural residues, residue from existing forests, and energy plantations. In industrialised countries, biomass production on excess agricultural lands could allow governments eventually to phase out agricultural subsidies.

totalled this amount and is expected to reach 52 Mha in 2030, despite an unexpected doubling of exports of maize, wheat and soybeans.

Concerns about future food supplies have led some to suggest that land will not be available for biomass production for energy in Africa and other developing regions. The

could provide some of the extra income farmers need for this. It has been estimated that some 30 per cent of the world's 2,100 Mha of deforested and otherwise degraded land could also be restored for energy plantations.

Electricity generation from biomass can take place at scales ranging from a few kilowatts for rural vil-

All are commercially available, commercially ready, or have good prospects for becoming commercial products within the next one or two decades. It is therefore somewhat surprising that governments give the lion's share of research and development funds to nuclear energy which still has a number of unsolved security and construction issues hanging over it. At the same time, subsidies worth between \$200 billion and \$300 billion a year for conventional energy continue to be paid. In the developing countries, these subsidies amount to about \$50 billion annually, which is equal to the sum of official development assistance.

Yet the societal benefits of the renewables are beyond doubt. Their use could contribute to a big cut in CO₂ emissions within a few decades. They could

help developing countries become more energy self-reliant, provide a motor for their industrial growth and improve their standard of living tremendously.

The world's oil exporters need not worry though: demographic and economic growth will mean a high increase in the demand for energy services that neither renewable energies nor fossil fuels alone will be able to meet.

Renewable energies are on their way — we should be doing our best to hasten their arrival.

Professor Johansson is Director of Energy and Atmosphere Programme at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This article is reprinted from the magazine UNESCO Sources.

As a means of tackling air pollution or acid rain, improving the standard of living of millions of people in the developing world, or creating jobs, renewable energies offer enormous potential

The potential for using such lands in Europe has been estimated at 33 million hectares (Mha) by 2020. In the U.S., idle cropland in 1990 already

outlook for food production may not be so bleak, however, if agriculture can be modernised in these countries. Biomass plantations

lages, to hundreds of megawatts for advanced industrial applications. The above example of renewable energies present viable, clean alternatives.

Philippine police pound the ballroom beat

By Angie Ramos
Reuters

MANILA — Some of the toughest cops in Manila are pounding a different kind of beat these days.

It's strictly ballroom when the men and women of the Philippine capital's western police district gather to unwind after a day chasing crooks or shooting it out with robbers.

The cha-cha and tango provide a perfect antidote to stress, as well as a workout that leaves everyone sweaty but smiling.

"This ballroom dancing is not only an exercise but a form of releasing tension and a venue where they can learn art and culture," said police chief Colonel Avelino Razon, who came up with the idea of introducing the 3,000-strong officers in his district to the foxtrot, rumba and swing.

Policemen used to resort to cards and booze when they got off duty, leaving them not just broke and drunk but tired and unfit as well, Col. Razon said.

"That was my big problem — how to get them hooked in something that would make them sweat so that they could have their regular 'work-out,'" he added.

The quick-stepping cops are just the tip of the ballroom iceberg. In recent years this dance form has gone from strength to strength in the Philippines and packs thousands of people into clubs night after night.

It is having a profound impact on other sectors of Filipino society besides the police.

Middle-aged women who used to stay at home while their husbands went out carousing have also come into their own.

Spaghetti-strapped, stiletto-heeled middle-aged women now throng nightspots which once catered to teenagers.

"You can see all the big smiles and the glow and you can see them enjoy it," said Maribel Dario, manager of one of Manila's lively ballroom dancing spots.

"This seems to be a ladies' turf, ladies call the shots," said actress Vangie Labalan, 50, who goes ballroom dancing with Raul Marfe, her 28-year old personal dance instructor.

A major attraction for the women is the presence of instructors like Marfe. Some stick to the rules and just boogie the night away. But others take a few twists and turns and end up getting tangled in messy romantic relationships.

Stories of jealous husbands and sons' beating up dance instructors are common.

"I know of many cases when the sons have barged in to give the D.I. (dance instructor) a piece of their mind because they think their mother is spending money on him," said journalist Julie Yap-Daza, author of "Etiquette for mistresses" and a keen observer of Manila's rich and famous.

While most dance instructors admit they enjoy the gifts and pampering given by their ageing clients, many of them know when it's time to draw the line and say "no".

"I refused to accept because I did not know what I would have to do in return," said Marfe of the time he was offered a brand new car and a condominium unit in the posh Makati area.

But some clients like Labalan see nothing wrong with the attention they pay dance instructors.

"I'd like to please him so what's wrong with that... If I had the money I would buy him a Rolex. I think when you love somebody, express it. If material things



Two Filipino mothers practice ballroom dancing at Manila's Rizal park with male instructors who charge them 200 pesos (\$8) for an hour of lessons. Ballroom dancing is a new craze sweeping middle aged people in Manila, including policemen who unwind after a day chasing criminals to dance the cha-cha and the tango (Reuters photo)

will please him, why not?" said Labalan, who swears she is happily married and that her relationship with Marfe is purely platonic.

But romantic or not, relationships between dance

instructors and Filipino women signify a radical change in a society where keeping mistresses is common, philandering husbands are accepted, and housewives are expected to

accept their lot and stay meekly at home.

"When you are lonely and you sit down and drool over your misery, what's going to happen to you? You have to survive, life should go on

and if the ballroom is a venue of happiness, why not go there?" smiled Labalan.

There are some rough, tough cops who agree. "This is really good ...

Probably the best exercise I've ever had," said 250-lb officer Angel Ang, sweetly stepping out to the tune of "Can't take my eyes off you" after hours spent patrolling Manila's tourist

belt. "This is a good chance for us to socialise and mingle with other people," officer Chit Santos, 42, said during a break from Bill Haley's "Rock around the clock".

Bob Dole beats President Clinton in race for laughs

By Helen O'Neill
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bob Dole's age might be slowing him down in the presidential polls but it's reviving up the late night TV comedy circuit.

In the race for laughs, the Republican presidential contender is way ahead, getting skewered by talk show hosts nearly twice as often as U.S. President Bill Clinton.

And, with 40 per cent of Americans under 30 saying they regularly get their political information from late night television, it's not something the candidates can shrug off lightly.

Night after night a barrage of one-liners hammer Mr. Dole, portraying — on good days — a grumpy old man, struggling to crawl

out of the stone age. "To appear more presidential, he's been smoking pot and nailing hookers," cracked David Letterman during a recent "top ten" list of "signs that Dole is getting desperate."

Jay Leno talks about a new Dole biography called "Bob Dole: the second 100 years." And Conan O'Brien quips that the 73-year-old

Dole is so optimistic he "always sees the glass of Metamucil (diarrhoea medicine) half-full."

Not that the comedians are any kinder to Mr. Clinton. If anything, the caricatures of the president are more pointed, depicting a philandering conniver with a weight problem.

O'Brien did an imaginary interview with a blustering, chip-chomping

president on the day his adviser Dick Morris resigned in a sex scandal — an incident gleefully milked by all the late night jokesters.

If Mr. Clinton had known Mr. Morris had a prostitute in his hotel room during phone conversations, Leno bellows, "he would have hung up and driven right over."

The broadcast buffoonery can be both tough and topical.

The day after Ross Perot announced his reform party running mate — economist Pat Choate, a political novice — late-night TV fed off on the pick that was made after established politicians turned down the Texan.

"Ross said Pat had all three criteria he was looking for in a vice president:

he was home. He answered the phone. He said 'yes'." Leno laughed last week.

Letterman took aim the same night, too: "Now for those of you who don't know what an economist is," he said, "think accountant — without all the charisma and all the thrill-seeking excitement."

Mr. Dole and Mr. Clinton make bigger targets, however. And in the sheer number of jokes told, the president gets off easier than his main rival.

According to the centre for media and public affairs, a non-partisan research group, Leno, O'Brien and Letterman lobbed 449 barbs at Mr. Dole this year through July compared to 299 at Mr. Clinton.

Belgium: conspiracy hotbed or bunglers' paradise?

By Jeremy Lovell
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Iraqi super-guns, shadowy NATO anti-communist vigilante groups, political assassinations and charges of high-level protection for paedophiles — Belgium has it all and more.

The arrest of five people, including a former government minister, at the weekend on charges of murdering Andre Cools, patriarch of the Socialist Party of Belgium's francophone community, five years ago is the latest in a litany of intrigue, incompetence and in-fighting.

The murder in March 1990 of ace gun designer Gerald Bull who had been making a super-long range weapon for the Iraqis may have been an isolated incident, but it helped illustrate the position the capital of Europe played in the world of international

conspiracies. The unveiling eight months later of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's secret Gladio network of deep-cover agents spread across Europe to fight an invasion from the East only served to underline that position.

NATO's civilian headquarters are in Brussels and its military headquarters 60 km south in Mons.

But if those scandals exposed Belgium as a centre of international conspiracy, they had nothing on the intricate web of national political plotting and police rivalry exposed by the killing of Cools in July 1991.

The investigations that ensued uncovered links to the mafia, theft, bribery, a political slush fund, toppled three federal government ministers and one former minister, prompted an air

force general to commit suicide and forced NATO Secretary General Willy Claes to resign.

It also exposed deep rivalry between investigators, police and the gendarmerie in different regions of the country as the case — originally being investigated in both Liege and Neufchateau — has centralised on Liege.

But after more than five years of investigations, police were still at a loss to define either the true motive or find the killers, prompting allegations of a cover up.

That remained the case until the Neufchateau investigators thrown off the original case began sniffing around again in their hunt for more victims and clues of a murderous child sex and car theft gang seemingly led by Marc Dutroux.

In the Dutroux case 10 people have so far been

charged — including a chief detective — two child victims have been rescued, four girls found dead, one accomplice found murdered and the body of an associate exhumed and found to have been poisoned.

Here too there have been allegations of police bungling and possible protection of Dutroux and his gang — at least passive if not active.

Officially there are no links between the Cools and Dutroux investigations other than that at one stage the same public prosecutors and investigating magistrates were involved — prosecutor Anne Thily and Dutroux affair.

Newspapers said they also had links to a medical fund set up by Cools in the late 1980s and run by a close associate.

OPEC set to reap \$20-\$26b oil windfall

LONDON (R) — OPEC producers are set to enjoy a windfall \$20 to \$26 billion of extra oil export revenue this year, thanks to soaring crude prices on international markets, London's Centre for Global Energy Studies (CGES) said Friday.

Petroleum exports by the 11 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should total about \$158 billion this year, up \$26 billion or 20 per cent from the \$132 billion earned last year, CGES chief economist Leo Drollas said.

Increased revenue will allow debt-ridden OPEC producers, most of which made modest assumptions for oil prices in their budget projections, to eat into deficits, pay debts, ease financial reform programmes and spend on infrastructure.

"OPEC's in for a much-needed increase in revenues because we don't see much chance of oil prices coming down during the remainder of the year," said Mr. Drollas.

OPEC revenues last year posted a 10 per cent rise from \$120 billion in 1994, according to OPEC headquarters in Vienna.

Oil prices, at an average \$19 for Brent so far this year, are running \$2 a barrel higher than last year. But analysts expect Brent, trading at \$22 on Friday, to easily outstrip last year's \$17 average during the final quarter of the year.

The military standoff between Iraq and the United States sent Brent to five-year highs last week and left light markets to cope without the expected resumption of Iraqi exports under a U.N. oil-for-food arrangement.

OPEC's biggest producer, Saudi Arabia, which budgeted for crude prices of just \$14-\$14.50 a barrel in January, can expect to make up to an extra \$10 billion, Middle East analysts have said.

That would more than wipe out the \$4.9 billion deficit on spending of \$40 billion projected by Riyadh this year. Foreign currency reserves, run down during the 1990-1991 Gulf war, are being rebuilt and debts to contractors repaid. Huge Saudi arms purchase payments will be made easier.

Debt-ridden Venezuela is

expected to reap at least \$2.5 billion more than projected, helped by higher oil output as well as increased prices, government figures show.

Caracas budgeted for \$13.50 crude and so far this year has averaged more than \$17 for its heavy oil and may put cash back to meet future debt payments.

Nigeria during the first half of the year earned \$3.49 billion from crude sales compared to a budgeted \$2.64 billion. Abuja is spending almost half the windfall on rebuilding its railways.

Indonesia, setting a \$16.50 budget for its relatively expensive light oil, has earned almost \$1 billion extra in the first six months of the financial year from \$19.50 a barrel sales, state oil company Pertamina officials said.

Troubled Algeria forecast this week a current account surplus of \$300 million by the end of 1996, reversing a forecast of a \$2 billion deficit. Every extra \$1 on the price of oil earns Algeria an extra \$500 million a year.

Kuwait, having used a conservative \$13 oil price in forecasting a 3.7 per cent rise in oil revenues in fiscal 1996/97 to \$12.9 billion, can expect to earn an extra \$3 billion.

Iranian hard currency revenues, mainly from crude sales, were expected to exceed budget forecasts by \$2 billion, an official said this week. Tehran originally expected to earn \$16 billion on a \$15.50 crude export price.

Meanwhile, OPEC delegates and oil analysts say the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries should make the most of an oil revenue windfall by keeping quiet about its output quota violations and let surging demand, quietly absorb the extra barrels.

The 11-member group would be ill-advised to remonstrate publicly with its biggest quota violators, they say, or formally raise its production ceiling to take advantage of a surprisingly high oil price.

"OPEC should just sit back, enjoy the high oil price, not plan anything and go with the flow," said veteran OPEC watcher Vahan Zanozian, senior director at the Petrochem Finance Co. A public OPEC row could

stampede jittery futures markets to skim the top off the price if oil traders believe such a spat could fracture the once-mighty group.

"They're getting so much more revenue at the moment. They don't want to jeopardise that by having an open row about quotas because it could destabilise the market," said Mr. Drollas.

OPEC delegates from several key member states, including those of the influential Gulf, hope that a meeting next week in Vienna of the group's quota compliance committee is a brief, inconsequential affair.

They will urge committee chairman, Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh, not to make good on a promise for a "very specific programme" to deal with overproduction.

"We would advise Mr. Aghazadeh to not make much about the quota problems. In fact, we question the logic of even holding this meeting. The market is absorbing OPEC supplies with no problems," said an industry official from an OPEC Gulf member.

On Monday, Mr. Aghazadeh will meet fellow committee members — OPEC Secretary General Rikwan Lukman and ministers from Nigeria and Libya — to compare official production figures with those from independent monitors which consistently show OPEC over its mandated quotas.

Analysts say nearly every member is producing as much oil as it can — with the notable exception of the world's largest producer Saudi Arabia. Collective output is about 800,000 over a ceiling set at 25.03 million barrels per day (bpd).

But the high price seems to vindicate a decision by OPEC ministers in June to keep quiet about quota busting and not cut production to make room for a return of Iraqi exports under a United Nations oil-for-food scheme.

In June, OPEC raised its ceiling to 25.03 million barrels per day (bpd) to reflect a rise of 700,000 bpd in Iraqi output expected when the U.N. plan was implemented.

But that plan has been put on hold following the mili-

tary confrontation between Baghdad and Washington and traders do not expect a resumption in Iraqi exports before the end of the year.

That delay along with other Middle East tensions, unexpected shortfalls in non-OPEC oil supply and strong demand ahead of the northern winter has driven oil prices to post-Gulf war highs.

"We have long predicted oil prices would be strong this year because of lower than expected non-OPEC production and good demand. It looks like we were right," said a Gulf

source familiar with Saudi oil policy.

So successful was OPEC's "do-nothing" decision in June, that if prices stay at current levels the group looks poised to leave matters well alone once more when ministers next meet in late November.

"With the threat of Iraq's return always on our shoulders and the uncertainty of price movements, we really should not do anything radical in November. To increase the ceiling and then come down is bloody difficult," said an OPEC delegate from a Gulf country.

Socialist International pledges to adapt to changing world

NEW YORK (AFP) — The president of the Socialist International (SI) has said the organisation must create "a renewed socialism" to fight the "law of the jungle" in the face of increasing globalisation.

Pierre Mauroy, a former French prime minister elected to a second term as SI president, proposed the creation of a commission to reform the group to respond to the challenges of the 21st century.

Mr. Mauroy said Socialists should unite around eight "priorities" including reform of the international monetary system to curb speculation, expanding the Group of Seven industrialised nations and restructuring the U.N. Security Council. He said the panel to be headed by former Spanish prime minister Felipe Gonzalez would develop a more action-oriented plan for Socialists around the world. The

Socialist International groups 120 parties and organisations worldwide. Mr. Mauroy said however that socialism has become the chief political force in central Europe and noted that Social Democrats run 11 of the 15 European Union countries.

But he said socialism is also on the rebound in Asian countries including Japan, Pakistan and India, and that Africa is also leaning toward the political left.

Israel committee proposes capital market reform

TEL AVIV (R) — A government-appointed committee has proposed a sweeping package of measures to take effect in 1997 to encourage long-term savings and stimulate Israel's capital markets.

The proposals included reducing the tax on dividends paid by publicly traded companies to 15 per cent from 25 per cent and the creation of a secondary market for mortgages based on the U.S. model of Ginnie Maes and Fannie Maes.

Mr. Brodett, director general at the finance ministry, said the committee also proposed doing away with Makams, which are short-term debt instruments issued by the Bank of Israel to control money supply.

Instead, the Bank of Israel will be allowed to operate in the open money market as central banks do in other industrialised countries, Mr. Brodett said.

A committee will be set

up to study this issue further.

The committee also recommended encouraging investment in foreign securities by allowing institutional investors to invest five per cent of their assets in foreign securities within three years. Currently the limit is two per cent.

At the same time, the tax on investment in foreign securities will be cut to 25 per cent from 35 per cent immediately and then to 20 per cent a year later.

The proposals will be presented to the government for approval. Those dealing with tax changes require parliamentary legislation. The committee has recommended the changes take effect at the start of 1997.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor called for the creation of the committee in July, as stock and bond prices were plunging amid investor flight from provident funds, a popular long-term investment instrument

in Israel.

The committee's other recommendations deal with changing the tax structure to favour savings of over 10 years and to encourage pension funds to invest more in capital markets.

The committee proposes encouraging workers to save more in pension funds by raising the amount of their wages eligible for tax benefits.

At the same time pension funds will be allowed to invest less in special high-yielding government bonds targeted only for pension funds.

The committee estimated this change alone would bring 54 million shekels into the capital markets in 1997 and nearly 10 billion shekels by 2010.

The Histadrut Labour Federation has already warned it will fight any attempt to change the pension fund agreement they have with the government.

The committee's recommendations would also lead to significant changes in provident funds. Investors will no longer be able to redeem their provident fund savings tax-free after 15 years. To enjoy the full tax benefits, the money must remain in the fund until retirement. There will be a three-year transition period for this.

The committee also recommended drafting regulation to allow Israelis to invest in individual retirement accounts, where they can decide the composition of their portfolio.

Short and medium-term savings would also be affected. One proposal would tax real interest paid on financial instruments of less than 10 years linked to the consumer price index or foreign currency at 10 per cent. Unlinked instruments would be taxed at five per cent of nominal interest.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have fine ideas of a personal nature and are enthusiastic and get much completed today. Try to act bravely in your activities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Be with one you trust and make a new and better plan for the days ahead. Get right to work on this new course of action.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be with good friends who are dynamic today and have fine ideas which can help to make the days ahead brighter for you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Handle civic and credit affairs wisely during the daytime today. Let bigwigs be more aware of your finest abilities for your success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day for changes and making new associates since this brings real progress in your career activities. Plan a trip.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can get your business affairs handled more wisely at this time so that you can have greater progress in the days ahead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Improve conditions around you and stop feeling so indifferent with your environment. Make arrangements with fellow associates.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can get much completed today because the air is full of enthusiasm so get busy early. Put your best ideas to work.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Study into the amusement which you particularly like today, one which you have not enjoyed of late for peace of mind.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Give more attention to your loved ones and show that family means a great deal to you. Invite guests in who can bring pleasure.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are full of good ideas at this time and gain benefits very easily today. Handle communications very well for your success.

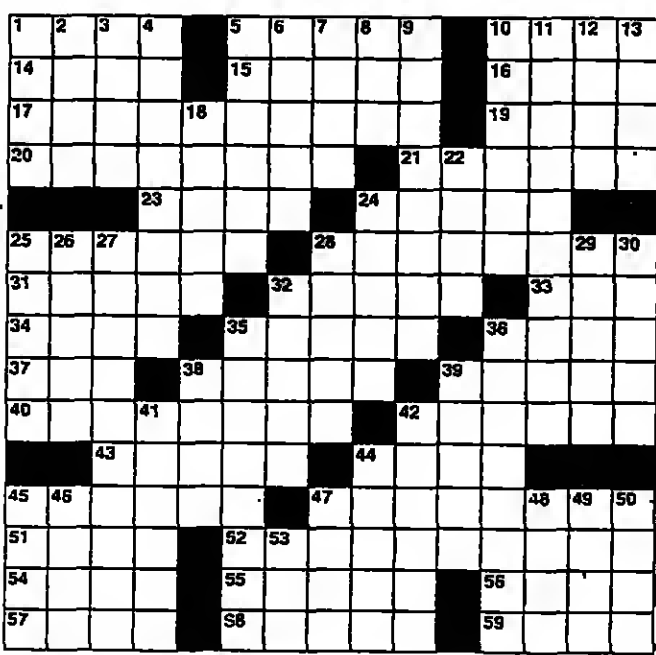
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Put new ideas to work which can bring you fine benefits today, so stop wasting time and get much accomplished.

Birthingstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

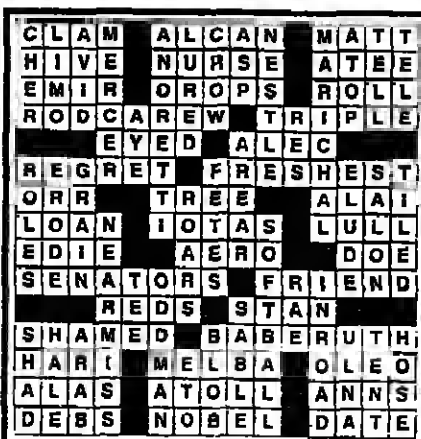
THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Marina pole
- 5 Chores
- 10 Motley; abbr.
- 14 Song from Kiri or Placido
- 15 Cove
- 16 He wrote "My Way"
- 17 Cleopatra's boyfriend
- 19 "How sweet —"
- 20 One kind of ballet
- 21 Dormant
- 23 Grows older
- 24 Groucho's prop
- 25 Flaked with the nails
- 28 Hobbies
- 31 Of the kidneys
- 32 Supermarket vehicles
- 33 Sea bird
- 34 Whirlpool
- 35 Uncovers
- 36 Poet Pound
- 37 Plaything
- 38 Ring-tailed carnivore
- 39 Shaving kit item
- 40 Signed up
- 42 Conditional release
- 43 Bread spreads
- 44 Huckleberry
- 45 Made of oak
- 47 Trumpeter
- 51 Teenage skin problem
- 52 Hockey player
- 54 "— only a bird in..."
- 55 Armor piece
- 56 Equipment
- 57 Pitcher Wilhelm of old
- 58 Additional
- 59 Fast planes



© 1996 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.



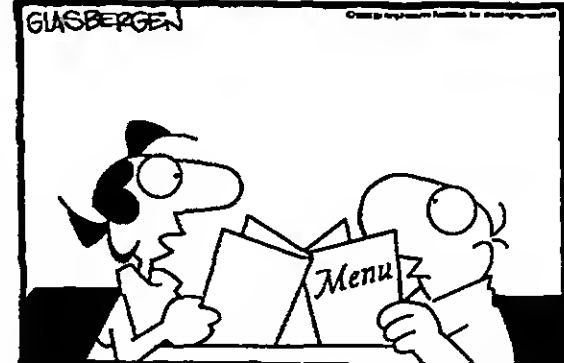
DOWN

- 1 One of the Three Bears
- 2 Bedouin
- 3 Dear —
- 4 Subtract

- 5 Slightly colored
- 6 Feeds the kitty
- 7 — gin fizz
- 8 Understanding
- 9 Hair salon employees
- 10 Mixed drink
- 11 Entr'acte
- 12 — deep (superficial)
- 13 Group of players
- 18 Guardian —
- 22 Go-between; abbr.
- 24 Insertion mark
- 25 Minoans' island
- 26 Encouraged deceitfully
- 27 "60 Minutes" regular
- 28 Peeled
- 29 Actor Flynn
- 30 Kind of drum
- 32 Walking sticks
- 35 Be owned by
- 36 Salary
- 38 — club

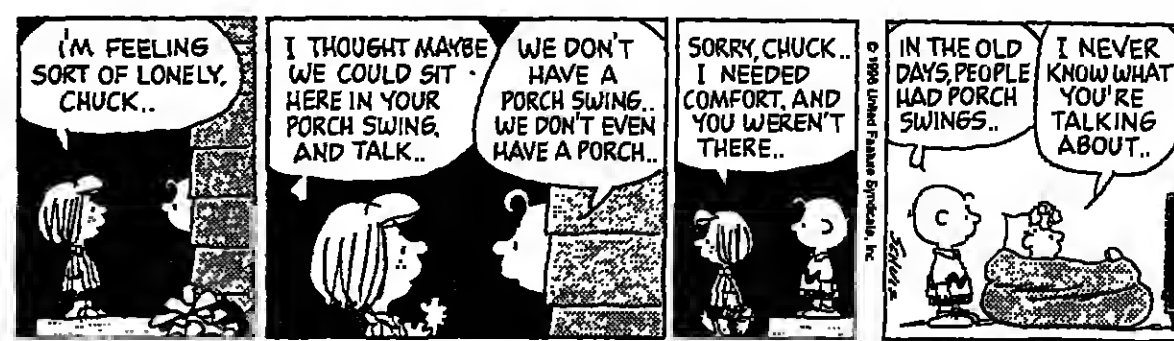
- 39 Extent
- 41 Most ancient
- 42 "The Homecoming" playwright
- 44 Deceitful
- 45 Laundry
- 47 Alan Alda
- 48 Poems
- 49 Spiffy
- 50 Goofs up
- 53 Grain

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

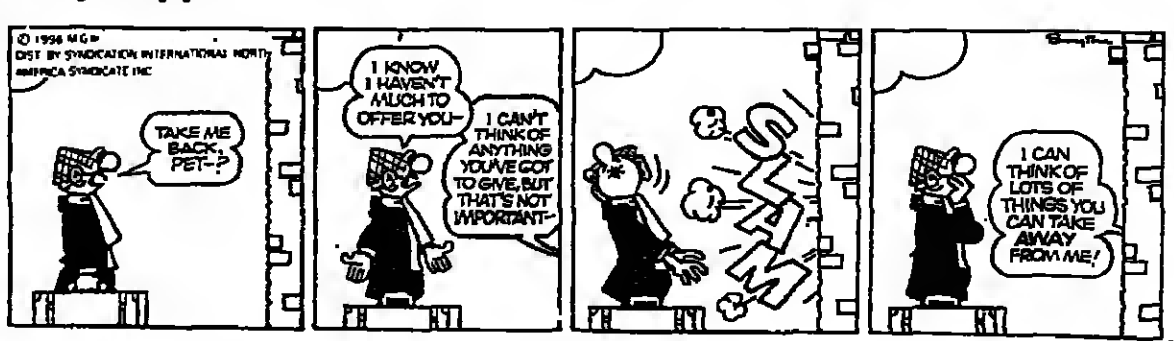


"I used to date a waiter, but he got on my nerves. He was constantly asking if everything was all right!"

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff





Britain's Damon Hill

Hill clinches pole in Portuguese GP

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) — Damon Hill enhanced his prospects of clinching the world championship in Sunday's Portuguese Grand Prix when he seized his eighth pole position of the season in a riveting qualifying session on Saturday.

Hill lapped just 0.009 of a second clear of his sole title rival, Williams team mate Jacques Villeneuve, who was second fastest and will share the front row of the grid.

Villeneuve's hopes of producing one more telling lap in the final minutes were wrecked when heavy rain began to fall.

Hill's pole was the 20th of his career, six better than his nearest challenger, defending champion Michael Schumacher.

The British driver was quick throughout

the session and headed the times on each of his runs.

His mid-session lap of 1:20.330 left him well clear of all his rivals and he could afford to sit back and see how well Villeneuve managed in the closing period.

The Canadian, who needs to finish at least four points ahead of Hill to keep the title race alive, tried his very best in the closing stages, but it was not quite enough.

Hill begins the race from the left side of the front row of the grid. His side of the track on the long straight into the first curve has less dirt and dust so he will be favourite to take the lead — provided he makes a good start for once.

Brazilian players to become free agents at 26

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Pele, acting as Brazilian sports minister, has signed a decree that will allow Brazilian soccer players who are 26 or over to become free agents as soon as their contracts finish.

The new rule, which will take effect on January 1, means that clubs will no longer receive transfer fees when the players decide to leave. Pele's spokesman Helio Viana said on Friday, Pele has long supported giving players freedom to move around, claiming that many were almost slaves, but some clubs fear it will ruin them.

Top players who could soon be on the market for nothing include Botafogo striker Tulio, the leading scorer in the Brazilian championship for the last

two years.

Vasco Da Gama's highly talented and highly explosive striker Edmundo will also be available when his contract expires in just over a year. Vasco have just spent \$5 million for him and are reported to be livid.

The age limit will be reduced to 25 in 1998 and 24 in 1999. Flamengo director Michel Asséf said that clubs needed more time to adapt themselves to the new rules.

He said that his club was not opposed to the measure in principle but added: "This could provoke a huge exodus of players to foreign countries."

Other clubs are reported to be finding ways of challenging the new rule.

Viana said the new ruling would force clubs to look for a more imaginative way of making money than by simply selling off their best players.

"It will improve Brazilian football because they (the clubs) will have to look for alternative sources of income," he said.

He said clubs had failed to push for alterations in Brazilian domestic football, in which the national championship is given less priority than loss-making state championships, because they knew they could simply sell off players.

"They allow the state championships to go only because they can sell one player here and another one there," he said.



Argentinian soccer star Diego Maradona kisses a young supporter as he leaves a gym September 20. Maradona is in Spain for a medical checkup (Reuters photo)

White Sox wild card hope still alive

CHICAGO (R) — Frank "big hurt" Thomas continued his one-man campaign to carry Chicago to the American League wild card playoff berth on Friday.

Thomas belted a grand slam in the second inning to lead Chicago to a 7-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins. He launched a 1-1 pitch from Twins starter Rich Robertson (7-16) 423 feet into the bleachers to give the White Sox a 5-0 lead.

It was Thomas's 39th homer this year. He has 10 home runs and 20 RBI this month to help the White Sox keep pressure on Baltimore and Seattle in the wild card chase.

"Robertson walks a guy and then hangs a ball to Frank, that hurts," said Twins manager Tom Kelly.

Kevin Tapani (13-9) allowed three runs and 10 hits over 7 1/3 innings with no walks for the win. Robertson gave up six runs and seven hits in six innings.

Rich Becker hit a two-run shot off Tapani in the eighth to draw the Twins within 6-3, but Chicago's Dave Martinez homered in the bottom half to close the scoring.

"We're not only trying to catch Baltimore right now, but we have to worry about Seattle as well," Martinez said. "Our pitching and our bats are real hot right now and we're looking forward to the final stretch."

In Seattle, Jay Buhner hit a three-run homer and Mark Whiten and Paul Sorrento each added two RBI as the surging Mariners cruised to a 12-2 rout of the Oakland Athletics for their club-record ninth consecutive victory.

The win left Seattle just one game back of floundering Texas in the west title battle and only half a game behind Baltimore in the wild card race.

Joey Cora homered off A's starter Don Wengert (7-11) in the second. Ken Griffey Jr. belted his 46th round tripper off reliever Doug Johns in the fourth and Buhner unleashed a three-run shot, his 42nd homer, off Carlos Reyes in the fifth.

At California, Garret Anderson's two-out, two-run double in the bottom of the 10th inning lifted the Angels to a 6-5 victory and continued the Texas Rangers' freefall.

Texas had scratched out the go-ahead run in the top of the 10th when Mark McLemore singled to left and Dean Palmer just beat the throw to the play for a 5-4 lead.

But with Texas one out from victory, Mike Stanton (4-4) surrendered singles to George Arias and Rex Hudler and Anderson lined a 2-2 pitch to the gap in left-center, bringing home the winning runs as the Rangers fell for the ninth time in their last 10 games.

In Baltimore, Pat Hentgen scattered eight hits over 8 1/3 innings and Otis Nixon had a key two-run single as the Toronto Blue Jays shut down the Baltimore Orioles 5-1.

Baltimore remained four games behind first-place New York in the east. But the set-back allowed hard-charging Seattle and the White Sox to close the gap in the wild card race.

Hentgen (18-10) gave up a run while walking four and striking out five in 8 1/3 innings. Rick Krivda (2-5) took the loss for Baltimore.

The Jays scored in each of the first four innings.



New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter buries his head after throwing wildly into the stands as he was taken out by Boston Red Sox runner John Valentin, (rear) who lies writhing in pain after breaking up a double play at second base in the seventh inning September 20 at New York's Yankee Stadium. Jeter's throw was wild and batter Troy O'Leary was safe at first as two runs scored to give the Sox a 4-2 win. Valentin was removed from the game injured (Reuters photo)

with Joe Carter's 30th homer in the fourth making it 4-0.

In New York, Tim Wakefield gave up two runs over eight innings and shortstop Derek Jeter made a costly throwing error as the Boston Red Sox beat the Yankees 4-2.

Yankee relievers Dale Polley (1-2) and David Weathers loaded the bases in the seventh. Troy O'Leary hit a grounder to second baseman Mariano Duncan, who flipped the ball to Jeter. But John Valentin slid into the shortstop, whose throw to first was off, allowing Boston's final two runs to score. O'Leary also robbed Jeter of a homer, climbing the right-field fence to snare a line drive in the fifth.

The Red Sox won their fifth straight game to stay in the wild card hunt.

In Cleveland, Brian Bevil allowed three runs over five innings and Mike Sweeney and Kevin Young each drove in two runs as the Kansas City Royals scored a 6-4 win over the Indians, who have already captured the central division crown.

Bevil (1-0) allowed four hits, walked two and struck out three in his second big-league appearance.

The Royals struck for three runs in the first against Charles Nagy (16-5), keyed by Sweeney's two-run double. Nagy allowed four runs and 10 hits over five innings for the loss.

Cleveland must win seven of its last nine games to post consecutive 100-win seasons.

In Milwaukee, Melvin Nieves belted a three-run homer in the fourth inning and Travis Fryman drove in three runs as the Detroit Tigers ended a 12-game losing streak with a 10-1 rout of the Brewers.

A.J. Sager (4-4) picked up the win in relief of starter Omar Olivares, who left in the fifth after spraining his right ankle trying to field a groundball. Sager limited the Brewers to one run and three hits over three innings.

The Tigers opened the scoring with five runs in the fourth against starter Scott Karl (13-8).

Padres pull within half game of Dodgers

The San Diego Padres pulled within half a game of Los Angeles in the National League West title race and regained sole possession of the wild card lead with a crucial 4-2 vic-

Major League Standings

American League				
Eastern Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	87	66	.569	-
Baltimore	83	70	.542	4
Boston	80	73	.523	7
Toronto	69	84	.451	18
Detroit	52	102	.338	35 1/2

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Y-Cleveland	93	60	.608	-
Chicago	82	73	.529	12
Minnesota	75	79	.487	18 1/2
Milwaukee	75	79	.487	18 1/2
Kansas City	72	82	.468	21 1/2

Western Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	84	70	.545	-
Seattle	82	70	.539	1
Oakland	73	81	.474	11
California	67	85	.441	16

National League				
Eastern Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	91	62	.595	-
Montreal	85	68	.556	6
Florida	74	80	.481	17 1/2
New York	69	85	.448	22 1/2
Philadelphia	62	92	.403	29 1/2

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	83	71	.539	-
Houston	78	76	.506	5
Cincinnati	75	78	.490	7 1/2
Chicago	74	78	.487	8
Pittsburgh	68	85	.444	14 1/2

Western Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	87	67	.565	-
San Diego	87	68	.561	1/2
Colorado	80	75	.516	7 1/2
San Francisco	63	91	.409	24

RESULTS			
<u>National League</u>			
Atlanta	3	Montreal	2
Cincinnati	4	St Louis	2
Florida	3	Houston	1
Pittsburgh	6	Chicago	4
New York	5	Philadelphia	2
San Diego	4	Los Angeles	2
San Francisco	6	Colorado	2

<u>American League</u>			
Seattle	12	Oakland	2
Toronto	5	Baltimore	1
Boston	4	New York	2
Kansas City	6	Cleveland	4
Chicago	7	Minnesota	3
Detroit	10	Milwaukee	1
California	6	Texas	5

lory over the Dodgers on Friday.

Joey Hamilton allowed just three Dodger hits over 7 2/3 innings and Steve Finley hit a pair of solo home runs to keep San Diego in the thick of the title hunt.

The west race could come right down to the wire as San Diego has seven games remaining, five of them with first-place Los Angeles. The Dodgers have eight games left.

Hamilton (15-8) yielded two runs with five walks and nine strikeouts. Trevor Hoffman pitched 1 1/3 per-

fect innings for his 38th save.

Finley tagged Knuckleballer Tom Candiotti (9-10) for his 26th homer in the first and 27th in the fourth for a 2-0 lead. Ken Caminiti added his 38th homer for San Diego against reliever Mark Guthrie to lead off the eighth.

In Atlanta, Javier Lopez's second RBI single scored Fred McGriff in the bottom of the eighth inning as the Braves edged the Montreal Expos 3-2.

The win increased Atlanta's lead to six games

over second-place Montreal with six games remaining between the teams. The Expos also fell a game back of San Diego in the chase for the wild card berth.

Tom Glavine (15-9) pitched eight innings, holding the Expos to five hits. Mark Wohlers struck out two in the ninth for his 37th save.

Dave Leiper (2-1) started the eighth for Montreal and surrendered a leadoff double to McGriff. Jeff Juden relieved Leiper and gave up Lopez's single up the middle that scored McGriff with the winning run.

In Cincinnati, Leany Harris' sacrifice fly snapped a seventh-inning tie and Curtis Goodwin added a RBI single as the Reds ended a five-game losing streak with a 4-2 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Harris' sac fly with the bases loaded off starter Alan Benes (13-10) gave the Reds a 3-2 lead. Goodwin followed by driving home the insurance run.

Dave Burba (10-13) allowed two runs and six hits over seven innings for the win that kept the first-place cards from adding to their five-game Central Division lead over Houston.

At Florida, Kevin Brown scattered four hits over seven innings and Jeff Conine and Devon White drove in runs in the fourth inning as the marlins beat the Houston Astros 3-1.

Brown (16-11) allowed one run, walked three, struck out five and lowered his league-leading era to 1.95 as Houston fell to 0-10 on the road in September.

Shane Reynolds (16-10) took the loss, giving up four hits and two runs in six innings.

In San Francisco, Mark Gardner allowed two runs over eight innings and rick wilkins hit a two-run homer to lead the Giants to a 6-2 victory over the Colorado Rockies.

Gardner (11-7) gave up nine hits with a walk and four strikeouts for his first win in eight starts.

Barry Bonds hit his 42nd homer off starter Mark Thompson (8-11) to give the Giants a 2-0 lead. Glenallen hill's 17th homer, also a solo shot, made it 3-1 in the fourth. Wilkins launched a 1-0 pitch from Thompson over the right-field fence in the fifth to make it 6-1.

In Pittsburgh, Jay Bell hit a two-run homer in the second inning and Jon Lieber allowed two runs over seven innings as the last place pirates posted their ninth straight victory, a 6-4 win over the Chicago Cubs.

Bell hit an 0-1 offering from Kevin Foster (7-5) over the left-field wall for his 11th homer and a 2-0 lead to extend his hitting streak to 12 games.

Lieber (9-5) gave up five hits with a walk and four strikeouts.

In Philadelphia, Paul Wilson hit a tie-breaking homer and picked up his first victory in two months, leading the New York Mets to a 5-2 victory over the Phillies. Wilson (5-12) snapped a personal seven-game losing streak, giving up a two-run homer to Gene Schall in the fourth, but little else. He allowed five hits over eight innings.

With the score tied 2-2 in the top of the fifth, Wilson smacked an 0-1 pitch from Phillies starter Mike Mumb's (3-9) over the left-field fence for his first Major-League homer.

<p>CINEMA TEL:634144</p> <p>PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>Nadia Jundi..... in</p> <p>ASSASSINATION</p> <p>(ARABIC)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL:699238</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>The Arab Cinema Surprise</p> <p>Ahmad Zakiin</p> <p>Naser 56</p> <p>(Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL:677420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD "1"</p> <p>Arnold Schwarzenegger & Vanessa Williams....in</p> <p>ERASER</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>CONCORD "2"</p> <p>SYLVESTER STALLONE....in</p> <p>ASSASSINS</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Ammoun Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275</p> <p>Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled</p> <p>Five-Star Government</p> <p>Starring comedians:</p> <p>Mahmoud Saimah & Hussein Tubishat</p> <p>Play starts 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155</p> <p>PRESENTS</p> <p>THE SATIRICAL COMEDY</p> <p>Arab Human Rights</p> <p>At 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>For reservation please call 625155 - 640155</p>
--	--	---	---	---

Still alive: Berger the hero as Liverpool trounce Chelsea

LONDON (R) — English League leaders Liverpool thrashed previously unbeaten Chelsea 5-1 in a top-of-the-table match at Anfield on Saturday with a display which affirmed them as true championship contenders.

Two outstanding goals from new Czech striker Patrik Berger, who took his tally to 11 in a week, highlighted a rampant Liverpool performance.

Berger scored twice after coming on as a substitute against Leicester last week and more for the Czech Republic in midweek.

He struck twice in seven minutes on the second half as Liverpool ran riot against Ruud Gullit's team, who started the match in third place.

Robbie Fowler (15), Andy Myers (44) and John Barnes (57) added the others as Liverpool, who have not won the league since their record 18th success in 1990, eased to the top.

Frenchman Frank Lehoucq scored a consolation for Chelsea with an 85th minute penalty.

Newcastle moved into second place, two

points behind, after winning 1-0 at Leeds United thanks to a 59th minute goal from Alan Shearer.

The result left Leeds manager George Graham beaten for the second time in his two matches in charge. Leeds had a miserable afternoon with former England defender Carlton Palmer sent off after 30 minutes.

Arsenal went third with a 2-0 win at Middlesbrough. The goals came from John Hartson in the third minute and Ian Wright, who netted his 101st league goal for the Gunners after 27 minutes.

Defending champions Manchester United, who started the day in second place, slipped down the table after drawing 0-0 at Aston Villa.

West Ham won 2-0 at Nottingham Forest despite having Swiss defender Marc Reeper sent off. Sunderland beat Coventry 1-0 and Sheffield Wednesday drew 0-0 with Derby.

Bottom-of-the-table Blackburn drew 1-1 with Everton, who had Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson sent off after 88 minutes.

PSG crush Lens

PARIS (R) — Paris St Germain, inspired by Brazilians Leonardo and Rai, crushed Lens 4-0 at the Parc des Princes on Friday to stretch their lead at the top of the French first division.

Leonardo, who has struggled to find his best form since joining PSG from Japanese club Kashima at the start of the season, was the undisputed star of the show.

He opened the floodgates with a tremendous volley in the 16th minute, set up Rai for the second goal in the 35th minute and wrapped up the match with the fourth after 86 minutes.

Nicolas Anelka scored PSG's third in the 83rd minute.

Bastia, enjoying their best season since the heady days of 1978 when they reached the UEFA Cup final, ousted Bordeaux from second spot by beating Caen 4-2.

Their Polish international Piotr Swerczewski scored twice, in the 34th and 69th minutes, and leading marksman Anton Drobnjak collected his seventh goal of the season with seven minutes left.

But there was a distinct Brazilian flavour to the night as Sonny Anderson struck twice for Monaco to earn his side a 2-1 away win over Le Havre.

The win lifted Monaco to fourth place on 15 points, five behind the leaders.

Bordeaux kept their unbeaten league record intact with a lacklustre goalless draw at home to Guingamp.



Monica Seles

Seles and Sanchez Vicario win semifinals

TOKYO (R) — Monica Seles frustrated the title ambitions of home favourite Kimoko Date in a tight semifinal at the Nichirei Women's Tournament on Saturday.

But Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario had few problems dismissing American Kimberly Po 6-4 6-3 to reach Sunday's final.

Date, who earlier this year scored an upset win over Steffi Graf in the same Tokyo Arena, earned three match points in the final set before going down to the top seed 6-3 1-6 7-6 (8-6).

"I think there was a lot of luck involved," Seles said after the match. "You'd wish tennis had two winners when you have a match like this."

Date, the number three seed, broke Seles' serve in the third set to lead 5-3 but let the American back into the match through a number of costly errors.

Spain's Sanchez Vicario, the number two seed and 1994 champion, lost her first service game to Po, but she broke right back and took control of the match for a 6-4 6-3 win.

"I played (Po) earlier this year and I knew what I had to do — not to get her in a position where she could hit good shots," Sanchez Vicario said.

Po, who was unseeded, had earlier beaten number four seed Mary Pierce of France and sixth seeded Ai Sugiyama of Japan to reach the semifinals.

Davis Cup

French stay in contention with doubles win

ANTWERP, France (AFP) — Guy Forget and Guillaume Raoux scored a straight sets victory over Andrea Gaudenzi and Diego Nargiso on Saturday to keep alive France's hopes of advancing to the final of the Davis Cup.

Forget and Raoux won 6-5, 6-2, in the 59th minute in doubles to reduce Italy's lead in the best-of-three semi-final to 2-1.

Raoux was preferred to Paul Hanika as partner in doubles specialist Forget was clearly the best player on court — determined and dominant.

The French pair, playing either for only the second time, went through the match without dropping a set.



Stefan Edberg of Sweden returns a ball to Czech Number One Daniel Vacek during their Davis Cup semifinal match in Prague. Edberg, has been plagued recently by an Achilles tendon injury sustained at the U.S. Open earlier this month (Reuters photo)

In contrast, Nargiso had eight double faults in the Italians — previously unbeaten in Davis Cup play — struggled as a combination.

The crowd cheered the French duo on, repeatedly chanting "Guillaume, Guillaume."

On Friday, Andrea Gaudenzi beat Cedric Pioline 6-1, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 and Enzo Furlan dominated Mats Wilander 7-5, 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5) to give the Italians a 1-1 lead.

The French comeback followed those disastrous opening results that came in spite of partisan home support and a faster indoor surface especially chosen to suit Italy's clay-court specialists.

France had gone into the opening confidence after stringing 5-0 victories over Germany and Germany in previous rounds.

To lose 3-0 at home, on a surface, would have been a humiliation, Forget said. "I am sure that Cedric and Arnaud are strong enough to win tomorrow I put us into the final."

The winners of the match face either Sweden or Czech Republic in the final. Those teams are contesting the other semi-final in Prague.

And 30-year-old Stefan Edberg's final fling in the competition before his end-of-season retirement could be extended. His 7-6 (2), 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 win over Mats Wilander gave Sweden a 0-2 lead in the other semi-final against the Czech Republic in Prague.

Earlier, Thomas Muster powered his way to a 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 victory over home player Fernando Meligeni but then his compatriot Markus Hippel let slip a two sets to love lead against Gustavo Kuerten. Lost two de-breaks in which he didn't win a point, and finally surrendered 6-4, 6-3, 6-7 (0/7), 6-7 (0/7), 1-6.

Like the French, the Czechs, who notched up a shock win over defending champions the United States in the quarter-finals in April, can afford no more slips when play resumes with the Saturday doubles.

The Swedes, five-times champions, will field Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Pietrangeli against the home pair Bohdan Ulihrach and Jiri Novak.

In the World Ghes, Croatia, despite playing at home in split, ended the day 2-0 down to the Australians.

The visitors' hero was Jason Stoltenberg who beat high-serving Goran Ivanisevic in a five-set thriller.

Earlier, Mark Philippoussis dropped only seven games in the opening singles against Sasa Hirszon.

Austria squandered their chance of taking a 2-0 first-day lead in their Davis Cup world group qualifying group clash against Brazil in Sao Paulo and ended up sharing honours at 1-1.

Thomas Muster powered his way to a 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 victory over home player Fernando Meligeni but then his compatriot Markus Hippel let slip a two sets to love lead against Gustavo Kuerten. Lost two de-breaks in which he didn't win a point, and finally surrendered 6-4, 6-3, 6-7 (0/7), 6-7 (0/7), 1-6.

Rain held up Belgium and Spain while injury pinned back the Netherlands.

In Bucharest, Belgium made a bright start when Johan van Herck defeated Adrian Voinea 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-2, 6-1 while in Tarragona, Alberto Costa gave Spain a winning start against Denmark by overwhelming Fredrik Pettersen 6-0, 6-0, 6-2. Rain then postponed the second singles until Saturday.

Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek, leading 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4, 1-4, had to pull out of his match against New Zealander Alistair Hunt because of a knee injury. The result left the two sides level-pepping.

Jan Siemerink earlier defeated Brett Steven in an exciting five-set marathon.

In the other qualifying

showdowns, Russia took their expected 2-0 lead over Hungary in Moscow, although their French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov surprisingly dropped a set to Attila Savolt, and Marc Rosset and Jakob Hlasek both scored victories in Offen to give Switzerland a comfortable 2-0 lead against Morocco.

There was drama and nostalgia at Wimbledon where Britain, playing Egypt in the Euro/Africa zone group two, took a 2-0 lead.

Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski both won their opening singles in straight-sets on the famous number-one show court which is to be demolished later this year in the all England club's rebuilding programme.

Man. City in more trouble

LONDON (AFP) — Crisis club Manchester City lurched deeper into trouble on Saturday when they were accused of making an illegal approach for Sheffield United manager Howard Kendall.

United chairman Mike McDonald, who revealed last week that his club had rejected overtures from city to talk with Kendall, said: "I am aware of what I consider to be an illegal approach for our manager and will be making a formal complaint to the football authorities."

Kendall, a former City manager, was a prime choice to be successor to Alan Ball after George Graham turned the "job down."

Graham, subsequently joined Leeds United after Howard Wilkinson was sacked a fortnight ago.

City suffered another snub on Friday when the Crystal Palace boss Dave Bassett rejected their offer, despite having persuaded City chairman Francis Lee to buy a player.

Indurain denies Spanish Tour is the end

BENIDORM, Spain (AFP) — Five-times Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain denied here on Saturday that his early withdrawal from the Tour of Spain would be a disappointing swan-song to his illustrious career.

"It's not the end," said the time-trial gold-medallist at Atlanta. "It's just a step along the way."

"I have to think about what I am going to do now. It's likely that I'll have to undergo medical tests for a few days at Pamplona," added the Spaniard.

"I want to recharge the batteries and nurse my cold as best as possible so that it doesn't get worse."

"The season has been a long one, and I need some rest."

Indurain-pulled out of the Tour of Spain on Friday complaining of possible bronchitis.

He is yet to announce if he will participate in the October world championships and whether he will ride for the Banesto team next year or retire from the sport.

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT
Consists of 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 salons, kitchen, balcony, telephone, heating. Location: Sweifieh, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle.
Please contact 810681, 866164

FURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT
Located in Abdoun area, opposite to the American Embassy; two floors, 4 bedrooms including 1 master bedroom with Jacuzzi, salon area + living room + dining room + 3 bathrooms, garage, garden and telephone.
For more information please call 815941, 822067

FURNISHED APARTMENT IN WESTERN SHMEISANI FOR RENT
220 sq.m., second floor apartment, consisting of three bedrooms, guest room, living room, veranda, independent central heating, telephone, maid room, spacious kitchen and luxurious furniture.
Please call Tel: 665711, 684256

SUPER DELUXE FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT
Consisting of 2 bedrooms, lounge, dining room, bathroom, kitchen, central heating, elevator, garage. Location: Tia'a Al All beside Jordan University Hospital.
Call Tel: 699422, 689829, Mobile 079 26258

Furnished Apartment For Rent
Consisting of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, salon, living salon, telephone, elevator, guard. Annual rent.
Location: Amman, Shmeisani, behind the Speciality Hospital.
Tel: 830623 - 079/37488

ELEGANT APARTMENT FOR RENT
Immediate occupancy, for diplomats or foreign business reps. Bright roof apartment of owner's villa; 250 sq.m. of beautifully decorated living space in Umm Utheina (5th Circle). Three bedrooms with closets (one MB with ensuite bathroom and dressing room); 2 other bathrooms; a study; a spacious social area: living, dining and guest rooms; kitchen; laundry. Private entrance, garage, central heating and solar energy.
Please contact phone/fax: 699449 (after 3:00 p.m.)

Furnished Semi Villa For Annual Rent
Total size 330 m2, 4 bedrooms, 1 master, large living room, large L-shaped sitting & dining lounge, fully equipped kitchen, 4 verandas, private Tel. line, surrounded by 750m2 garden with covered parking area. Location: Dahlat Al-Rasheed, across from Dahlat Al-Rawda, behind Jerusalem Hotel.
For information: Tel. 683208

FOR RENT UNFURNISHED
Garden lower ground floor of two-floor-villa, 275 sq.m., located at Fifth Circle - Wadi Saqra. L-shaped large living & dining area, kitchen, master bedroom with bath. Two other bedrooms with bathroom, quiet road, TV aerial, telephone & own boiler.
Please contact owner at 673738

JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY CO. LTD, AMMAN - JORDAN
TENDER INVITATION FOR BIDDING NO. 174/96 L.P.GAS
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY CO. LTD, ANNOUNCES TENDER INVITATION NO. 174/96 FOR THE SUPPLY OF L.P.GAS AS FOR THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE QUANTITIES:-
A- 40,000 M TONS
B- 60,000 M TONS
+ 10% TO BUYER'S CHOICE
COMPANIES WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ABOVE TENDER ARE INVITED TO OBTAIN TENDER DOCUMENTS FROM THE COMPANY'S HEAD OFFICE AT THE FIRST CIRCLE, JABAL AMMAN AGAINST A NON-REFUNDABLE JD (200) PER SET.
A BID BOND EQUALS 2% OF THE OFFER AMOUNT VALID FOR 120 DAYS PROVIDED AND ISSUED OR CONFIRMED BY LOCAL BANK.
OFFERS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AT THE COMPANY'S HEAD OFFICE NOT LATER THAN 12:00 HRS OF SUNDAY 6/10/1996.
CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FLOWER BULBS
TULIP - DAFFODILS - HYACINTH - ANEMONE - RAUHNKULUS - FREESIA
TAHA & QASHOU CO.
81 62 59

Talabani: Barzani must cut ties with Saddam before reconciliation

DUBAI (AFP) — Iraqi Kurd leader Jalal Talabani on Saturday linked a reconciliation with rival Kurdish chief Massoud Barzani to a break in Mr. Barzani's ties with the government of Saddam Hussein.

"Reconciliation with Barzani is impossible as long as he moves within the circle of Saddam Hussein," Mr. Talabani, who heads the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), told the Arabic daily Al Hayat.

At the end of August Mr. Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) ousted Mr. Talabani and his movement from Erbil, the key town in Iraqi Kurdistan, with the help of Baghdad.

Iraqi troops later withdrew from northern Iraq while the KDP took over the region.

"We cannot consider any negotiations with him (Barzani) if he does not clearly break ties with this butcher (Saddam) and if he does not repent for his treason," Mr. Talabani said.

Asked about a U.S. call for a resumption of the inter-Kurdish dialogue, Mr. Talabani said: "We do not refuse U.S. mediation but we believe that its success depends on Mr. Barzani announcing an end to relations with the Baghdad regime and his acceptance of free elections in Kurdistan supervised by the U.N."

Mr. Talabani also accused Turkey of involvement in the plot against the PUK.

"Erbakan is involved in the plot by Saddam, Barzani and Turkey against the PUK to occupy Erbil and put an end to the Kurdish democratic experience," he said in reference to Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

This cooperation was also aimed at eliminating the Turkish separatist Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), which has been battling the Ankara government since 1984 to set up an independent state in southeast Turkey, he said.

Mr. Talabani also said that PUK leaders and militants were still in northern Iraq and were preparing to resume the armed struggle.

"The PUK is reorganising its armed forces and is preparing to launch military attacks using new tactics," Mr. Talabani said.

He also denied anew having received any military support from Iran, where he reportedly sought refuge after his ouster from northern Iraq.

"We did not ask for military aid from Iran because we are opposed to turn Kurdistan into the theatre of an Iraq-Iran war by proxy and because we wanted to maintain our relations with Europe and the United States," Mr. Talabani said.

Hariri orders charges dropped against singer

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, responding to protests from intellectuals, has ordered the dismissal of a lawsuit against a leftist singer charged with insulting Islam by using a Koranic verse in a song.

Lebanon's official National News Agency said Mr. Hariri instructed Justice Minister Bahij Tabbara on Friday "to stop the lawsuit against artist Marcel Khalife and all that he has been charged with of insulting religious rituals in his song."

Prosecutor Abdullah Bitar on Wednesday charged Mr. Khalife, a Maronite Christian, with insulting religious rituals by using a verse from the chapter of Yousef from the Holy Koran, in a song titled "Oh my father, I am Yousef."

The indictment said the lyrics: "Did I commit adultery when I said that I saw 11 planets and the sun and the moon kneeling in front of me," resemble a Koranic verse in which Yousef, the Biblical figure Joseph, addresses his father Jacob.

Judicial sources have said Mr. Khalife would face between six months and

KDP team to visit U.S.

A KDP delegation will travel to Washington in the week of Sept. 30 to Oct. 5 for talks with U.S. officials on northern Iraq, a source said here Saturday. The exact date has not yet been set, the source said.

The visit, at the invitation of the U.S. government, is for a dialogue between the United States and the KDP, the same source said.

Mr. Barzani met U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East Robert Pelletreau in Ankara Wednesday and said that his pact with President Saddam was only temporary and that he was ready to move away from the Iraqi leader.

He KDP leader called on the United States not to disengage from northern Iraq and to keep aiding the Iraqi Kurds. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Pelletreau invited a KDP delegation to Washington.

Rafsanjani urges alert

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani called on his armed forces Saturday to prepare for possible "enemy" attacks on the anniversary of the start of the 1980-1988 war against Iraq.

"Iran's enemies have entered the foray in economic and cultural areas and imposed an embargo on us to strike a blow," Mr. Rafsanjani said, referring to the U.S. economic sanctions imposed on Iran in June 1995 and tightened in August.

"The army should be in a permanent state of defence as the enemies want to impose an arms embargo on Iran," he said in a speech marking the 16th anniversary of the start of the war. Iran organises the "defence week" each year to commemorate the 1980-1988 war against Iraq and for the first time since the end of the conflict the country is holding military parades in various cities this year.

"We should be ever vigilant because the enemies have not learned a lesson from history," he told a crowd at Tehran's Azadi Square, in apparent allusion to the Iraqi invasion of its Kurdish-held north late last month and the ensuing U.S. missile attack on Iraq.

After Mr. Rafsanjani's speech, units of armoured divisions as well as various ground-to-ground and ground-to-air missiles were paraded in front of the official stand. But no new equipments were displayed.

Iraqi forces entered Iran on Sept. 21, 1980, more than one year after the Shiite Muslim revolution and ended eight years later in a virtual stalemate.

three years jail if convicted. Lebanese law prohibits the slandering of religions or religious figures. Joseph and Jacob are revered in Islam as prophets.

A prosecutor appointed to question Mr. Khalife said on Saturday that the file was still effectively open as he had not yet received written notification to drop the charges.

Mr. Khalife, who is touring the United States with his band, said on Friday by telephone he had obtained permission to release the song in his 1995 album "Arabic Coffetpot" from Lebanon's general security censorship bureau.

The 46-year-old bearded crooner has earned a cult following in the Arab world and the Arab diaspora through nationalistic songs during the 1975-90 Lebanese civil war.

Mr. Hariri's orders to drop the case came after Lebanese Muslim and Christian poets, writers and journalists expressed disgust at them, saying they were bizarre and reminiscent of campaigns waged against intellectuals in some Arab or Islamic countries.



A U.S. soldier takes cover during exercises in Kuwait near the Iraqi border as part of the U.S. buildup against Iraq (Reuters photo)

Qatar said slowing its moves towards Israel

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Qatar said Saturday it is slowing normalization of ties with Israel, as interest in relations with the Jewish state has been lukewarm since the new rightwing government was elected in May.

Qatar also called for Bahrain to attend the summit in Qatar despite its anger over the handling of their boundary dispute.

Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jassem Ben Jabr Al Thani said in an interview published by the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Rai Al Aam that his country "has delayed opening a (trade) office in Israel and contacts between the two countries have declined."

Qatar and Oman are the only Gulf countries with trade ties with Israel.

The foreign minister said there has been "a certain half-heartedness on our part" since Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power at the head of a rightist-centrist coalition led by his Likud Party.

The Netanyahu government, which campaigned on a security theme, has braked moves towards the Arabs fostered by the previous Labour-

led government.

"When Israeli envoy Dore Gold visited Doha (in July) ... we told him clearly: you are burning the bridges that we built for peace, and we can't take your side against a brother Arab," he said.

Doha threatened in July to "re-evaluate" its policy of normalisation and said that it did not plan to open a commercial representation office in Israel until after Mr. Netanyahu "commits himself to pursuing the peace process."

On Qatar's dispute with Manama, the foreign minister said he "hoped that our brothers in Bahrain will review their decision and attend the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit" scheduled for December in Doha.

Bahrain has said it will boycott the summit of the GCC, which also includes Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Bahrain and Qatar both claim the Hawar Islands in the Gulf.

The foreign minister said his country "favours any amicable solution under which we could withdraw our lawsuit from the International Court of Justice" at the Hague.

OSCE says outcome of Bosnia elections unclear

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Organisers of Bosnia's post-war elections have delayed announcement of the final results of the vote and said on Saturday the outcome was still unclear.

"We'll have no idea who won the elections until the certification of results is completed and that will take longer than we expected," said John Reid, special elections adviser in the Bosnia mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which supervised the vote.

"We have found numerous errors of transcription and addition as well as double entries (by counting centres)," Mr. Reid said at a briefing where OSCE had been expected to announce final results from the Sept. 14 election but did not.

"Our mistake was in trying to rush out the results and our entire communications system collapsed," Mr. Reid told Reuters afterwards. So many counting stations around war-devastated Bosnia lacked telephone and fax machines that many results had to be hand-carried to central tabulation centres.

OSCE election supervisors could not say whether the discrepancies might undo the provisional announced victory of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic in the key race for a new collective presidency. He narrowly beat a Serb separatist.

Despite the confusion, the OSCE said the municipal part of Bosnia's electoral process — postponed earlier because of voter registration irregularities — would be held on Nov. 22 and extended to Nov. 23-24 if needed.

French diplomats, meanwhile, announced that the presidents of Bosnia and Serbia will meet Oct. 3 in Paris, and a spokesman for the Bosnian leader said he will insist on full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic have met frequently in group negotiations but never for one-on-one talks.

Mr. Izetbegovic's spokesman, Mirza Hajric, predicted the talks could result in the opening of some diplomatic offices and eventually full relations between the former enemies.

The International Crisis Group, a group of individuals and former government officials who serve as an ad hoc watchdog organisation for Bosnia, has been consistently critical of the Sept. 14 election. The group maintains that Bosnia was still too volatile from 1 1/2 years of war to be capable of holding a free and fair vote.

The Crisis Group said that according to figures used by the United Nations and the OSCE, which organised and supervised the election, a maximum of 2,341,100 people could have voted, out of a total electorate of 2,920,000.

If the estimated 578,900 people unable to vote were subtracted out, then the figure of 2,431,554 represented an impossible turnout of 103.9 per cent.

Russia, U.N. chief differ on hurdles to Iraqi deal

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Russia's U.N. envoy said on Friday that Secretary-General Boutros Ghali should be able to establish quite soon whether conditions in northern Iraq were safe enough to begin implementing a delayed "oil-for-food" plan.

But Dr. Ghali, in an interview with Reuters, was more cautious, saying that the situation in northern Iraq was still not clear and that technical problems remained.

Asked repeatedly when he thought the programme might be implemented, the secretary-general said he did not know if it would be next month or before the end of the year.

"We still have not a clear assessment of the situation," he said. "We still have difficulties to implement this."

Dr. Ghali put the plan on hold after Iraqi troops recently entered the Kurdish-inhabited northern region of Iraq, delaying deployment through the country of U.N. personnel required to carry out the programme.

But Russia's Ambassador Sergei Lavrov, in a separate briefing for journalists, said: "I believe that the secretary-general is well in a position to establish quite soon whether safe conditions exist in northern Iraq."

He said Security Council members, at a monthly

lunch with Dr. Ghali, had discussed the "oil-for-food" plan under which Iraq would be allowed to buy \$2 billion of oil over six months to buy food, medicine and other necessities to offset the effects of U.N. trade sanctions in force since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Lavrov said there were still reports of "isolated fighting in villages" in northern Iraq, but "the personnel which is required and the deployment of which has been delayed, were assured could be there in a matter of a few days."

"The implementation process is under way, as the secretary-general assured us," he said, adding that some technical procedures still had to be completed.

Dr. Ghali said he had received a long letter from Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Al Sahaf saying he wanted "to send a delegation to discuss how we can accelerate the process." He gave no date but said he was open to discussions with any group Iraq might send.

The U.N. chief pointed to the departure of foreign relief workers from the Kurdish north since the crisis, as well as so-called technical hold-ups in approving an escrow account for the proceeds of oil sales and an oil-pricing formula.

"It is the continuation of

what we have seen," he said in reference to delays that have plagued the talks since an agreement between Iraq and the United Nations was signed on May 20 following four months of negotiations.

Most diplomats believe there is little chance the plan would be implemented before the Nov. 5 U.S. elections, with U.S. officials saying pointedly that conditions in Iraq made it difficult to proceed with the programme at this time.

A final decision is up to Mr. Ghali, not the Security Council. But the United States can delay procedures and contracts through the council's Sanctions Committee and has done so on nearly every technical issue to date.

Last week the United States said it needed more time to study a formula for setting the price of oil, which had been worked out between Iraq and outside oil experts and approved by the other 14 members of the sanctions committee.

The U.S. Treasury Department also has not yet given its approval for an escrow account to receive the oil revenues set up at the New York branch of the French-based Banque Nationale de Paris. The United States has to grant an exemption for Iraqi funds because of the trade sanctions imposed on Baghdad in 1990 after its invasion of Kuwait.

Islamic Jihad threatens to renew suicide attacks

CAIRO (AFP) — The hard-line Palestinian Islamic Jihad could resume anti-Israeli suicide operations despite joint efforts by the Palestinian intelligence units and their Israeli counterparts to track them down, the Arabic daily Al Hayat reported on Saturday.

Ramadan Abdallah Al Shallah, secretary general of Islamic Jihad, said his movement had not taken any decisions to stop its anti-Israeli operations.

"We will carry out operations against Israeli targets tomorrow if we could," he told Al Hayat.

The newspaper also quoted other unnamed Palestinian sources as saying that Islamic Jihad was deploying efforts to resume its military operations to counter the success of Palestinian and Israeli intelligence to arrest several of its members.

Palestinian sources with close links with the Islamic groups expected Islamic Jihad to renew its attacks to coincide with the first anniversary of the assassination of Mr. Shallah's predecessor, Fathi Shaqaqi, in Oct. 26, 1995, in Malta.

Islamic sources told Al Hayat, however, that the fundamentalist Palestinian movements were facing difficulties over the past few months "because the cash flow from Libya totally stopped."

Mr. Shallah, meanwhile, complained of what he said was a "competition" between Palestinian intelligence units led by Amin Al Hindi and security forces headed by Mohammad Dahlan to track down militants of Islamic Jihad. He charged that Palestinian intelligence units led by Mr. Hindi arrested 30 men claiming they were members of the Jihad in Bethlehem while Palestinian security foiled two operations in Gaza which were to be carried out by Fawzi Abu Assaker and Ayub Abu Hashem.

Mr. Shallah also complained of that the Israelis were free to set up roadblocks in Gaza and carry out arrests.

Rao quits as Congress chief after court ruling

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Saturday resigned as president of the historically dominant Congress (I) Party after he was named co-accused in a \$100,000 fraud case.

The announcement was made at the Congress headquarters in New Delhi by party official Devendra Dwivedi, following persistent demands from Congress rebels for his ouster.

The resignation came hours after Mr. Rao was formally named as co-accused in a \$100,000 fraud case by a New Delhi businessman and ordered to appear before a court on Sept. 30.

But Mr. Rao declared his innocence in a statement, saying: "I am totally innocent and the allegations levelled against me are false, frivolous and baseless and are intended to cause harm to my reputation."

"During the period I was in positions of power, including that of the prime minister, I have not done anything

violative of the law nor have I done anything which might bring discredit to my party or to my government."

"I have resigned in the interests of the Congress Party and to avoid tension and confusion in the ranks," even though the case is yet to be heard on merits, I have decided to relinquish the office of the Congress president," Mr. Rao said.

London-based Indian businessman Lakshubhai Pathak had accused Mr. Rao and controversial Hindu mystic Chandraswami of defrauding him of \$100,000, promising lucrative newspaper and paper contracts which never materialised.

Mr. Rao has termed the charges baseless and politically motivated and attacked a magistrate, Prem Kumar, for ordering a court appearance on July 9, saying Mr. Kumar was biased against politicians.

Mr. Rao's lawyer Ranjit Kumar said he would appeal to the high court against the court order.

Zeroual: Bid under way to expand government

ALGIERS (AFP) — President Liamine Zeroual said Saturday that consultations were underway to enlarge the government and the country's transitional legislature, the official APS news agency reported.

"Proposals have been made to this effect to political parties," he told a press conference.

Mr. Zeroual did not specifically name any parties, but said the enlargement could include those that boycotted last week's national political conference which set out a framework for political pluralism in Algeria.

The president went on to claim that the government was winning its war against Islamic fundamentalists.

"The situation on that point has noticeably improved compared to the years 1993, 1994 and even the beginning of 1995," he said.

"The merit for this belongs to the Algerian people, who fight daily against the mercenaries, the traitors and criminals who want to destroy the country."

He admitted that "problems" still persisted, but vowed that they would be eradicated.

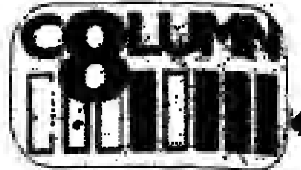
"The Algerian state disposes of the necessary means to eliminate this phenomenon which is foreign to our society," he said.

Algeria's leadership has been engaged in a civil war with Islamic fundamentalists since the cancellation of elections in 1992 which the Islamists were poised to win. At least 50,000 people are believed to have died since then, including at least 100 foreigners.

The Algerian authorities have pushed the line for several months that there now only exists "residual terrorism."

However, reports of bloody attacks by fundamentalists still regularly filter through to the outside world despite heavy press censorship.

On Friday, one of Algeria's most popular singers, Cheb Aziz, was found murdered in the eastern city of Constantine after being kidnapped by extremists as he left a marriage.



74-year old killed in birthday bullfight

LIMA (R) — A Peruvian pensioner died trying to show off his skills as a bullfighter during his 74th birthday party, local media reported. Marco Padilla, from the northern town of Acusapampa, dragged friends away from a barbecue held in his honour and invited them to watch him take on a bull in a nearby stable. But the manly display did not last long as Padilla failed to avoid one of the bull's advances and was skewered by the animal's horns. Friends killed the bull and sold the meat to raise money for his funeral.

Special rail fare offers just 10 minutes in London

LONDON (R) — Residents of a Welsh town are being offered a special rail fare to visit London but there is a small catch — they can spend only 10 minutes in the British capital. To qualify for the £34 (\$52.80) fare for the 763 kilometre round trip, passengers must take the 9.22 a.m. train from Aberystwyth which arrives in London at 2.25 p.m., the Daily Telegraph reported. But they have to leave for home on the 2.35 p.m. train, the newspaper added. "Who in their right minds would sit on a train for 10 hours all for the sake of 10 minutes in London," said Aberystwyth town clerk Roger Roberts. The train company's marketing manager, Bernard Pratt, said the offer was being reconsidered and passengers might be allowed to return on a service leaving London at 6.15 p.m.

First lady's book earns her \$742,000 in royalties

WASHINGTON (R) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced that her book on educating children, It Takes A Village, had earned \$742,000 in royalties. Mrs. Clinton has promised to donate after-tax royalties from the book, which Republicans bashed roundly at their August convention, to benefit children's hospitals. In a statement, Mrs. Clinton said she would seek the advice of the National Association of Children's Hospitals and related institutions in distributing the funds.

Australians say art find may rewrite history

MELBOURNE (R) — Australian archaeologists have found aboriginal stone tools and rock art they claim date back more than 116,000 years and could rewrite conventional theories of prehistory. Research team leader Richard Fullagar said Saturday the stone chips found at a dig in Australia's remote northwest showed humans lived there between 116,000 and 176,000 years ago, around the time of the emergence of modern human form in Africa.

Norma Major hints at Labour poll victory

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major's wife Norma sparked controversy when she hinted she expected Cherie Blair, the opposition Labour Party leader's wife, to be in Downing Street after the next election. In an interview in the Independent newspaper, Mrs. Major was asked what advice she would give to Tony Blair's wife should she find herself in the prime minister's official residence after the election. "Oh, I wouldn't presume. I think we all have to make of the job what we can. But I have no brief. She will do it her way," she replied. Friends will see her suggestion that Cherie Blair "will" rather than might be in Downing Street as a slip of the tongue.